

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

SUPERVISORS:

Danielle A. Duckett, Chairman
Michael Twersky, Vice Chair - Absent
Janine Martin
Kathleen Hunsicker
Tessie McNeely

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Administrative Assistant
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Melinda Haldeman – Finance Director

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:09 pm 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 to discuss matters of litigation and personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Lawn, 1135 Stonehouse Road, came to speak regarding the proposed cell tower at the township building. He was not able to attend the special BOS meeting in July. His home is 450 feet away from the proposed cell tower and would prefer it to be in an alternative location.

Michael VanderZwan, 6 Richards Way, asked if the tower is moved to the Gwynedd Mercy school will the service be just as good or better? He also asked what the hold up was? Mike Malloy, from Rise Up Towers, replied that the property is owned by the Sisters of Mercy. The process is moving slowly, but it is all positive. He also stated that the cell service would be better if the cell tower was located at the school.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Public hearing to consider an Amendment of a Conservation Easement to permit a cell tower in the maintenance area at Penllyn Woods Park

Solicitor Neil Stein opened the hearing and submitted his exhibits for the record verifying that the notification requirements were met. The applicant is requesting permission to amend the Conservation Easement at Penllyn Woods Park for the installation of a cell tower.

The information provided was transcribed by a court reporter and will be available upon request. Ms. McNeely made a motion to leave the record open until the November 28th BOS meeting to get more information from an environmental specialist. Ms. Hunsicker seconded the motion to leave the record open. Motion passed 4-0.

Resolution #2023-25 for a subdivision plan to adjust the lot line at 1304 Gypsy Hill Road

The applicants Carol Durham and Kirk and Ashley Brinton have requested approval of a minor lot line adjustment for their properties located at 1300 and 1304 Gypsy Hill Road. This change is for the purpose of land conveyance with no proposed construction improvements. All necessary reviews have been completed. Mr. Stein asked Wayne Kiefer of RL Showalter, who was present on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Brinton if his clients had approved the resolution. Mr. Kiefer replied yes, they are away right now and were unable to sign it prior to the meeting. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker, to approve Resolution #2023-25 granting preliminary/final approval to the 1304 Gypsy Hill lot line adjustment. Motion passed 4-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Review of 2024 Budget

Ms. Gleason thanked Ms. Haldeman for all her work on the budget. Overall, the township is doing well. However, we need direction on a few capital items. First, do we keep funding for the fencing around the Little League Fields at Ingersoll Park? The BOS had a discussion and they all agreed that the funding should remain, as fencing is a safety issue. They would like the fencing installed prior to the start of the 2024 Little League season in the spring. A local shares grant is available and while a match is not required, making that match makes us more competitive. The Little League has agreed to do some fundraising to earn a portion of the match and then the township could cover the balance. Ms. Martin is going to speak with the Little League and see how comfortable they would be with having a fundraising goal set for them.

The second item is the pickle ball courts at the YMCA. After some discussion the BOS agreed to keep the \$250,000 in the budget for pickleball courts. However, they feel that putting the courts on Township-owned property would be better. Installing them at the YMCA could cause a territorial dispute between YMCA members and Lower Gwynedd Township residents.

Ms. McNeely questioned the \$6500 budgeted for landscaping in front of the township building. Mr. Zollers clarified that the \$6500 is for the landscape architect's design work only. Once the plan is complete, they will look to see what portions can be completed by public works and what portions will need to be completed by a contractor. Ms. McNeely would like to see the work completed in 2024.

Ms. Duckett noted that there are funds set aside for individual committees, but not all committees. She asked that the \$20,000 allocation for the EAC be combined into one account for all boards and committees. Ms. McNeely mentioned that the EAC will have a list of recommendations at the joint BOS/EAC meeting.

Ms. Gleason mentioned that we will be working on cleaning up line items and funds in next year's budget.

Authorization to advertise the 2024 preliminary budget for public review

The PA Second-Class Code requires that the budget be advertised and available for public review for a period of 20 days prior to adoption. The BOS received the 2024 preliminary budget and discussed any changes. Ms. Duckett made a motion to approve advertisement of the 2024 preliminary budget, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of invoices

The BOS received the invoices for the month of October totaling \$1,487,879. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve the invoices for the month of October. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of minutes - October 24, 2023

The BOS received the minutes from the October 24, 2023, meeting. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker, to approve the October 24, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion passed 3-0. (Ms. Martin abstained as she was not present for the October 24th meeting)

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

The BOS received the meeting highlights for the Human Relations November meeting. There were no questions or comments.

STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Gleason stated that she received an email from PennDOT regarding a weight restriction of 12 tons on the Gypsy Hill Road bridge. Mr. Dixon suggested writing a letter to PennDOT requesting to have the bridge replaced.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. McNeely thanked the staff for their work on the budget. Ms. Haldeman stated she is trying to get the documents into an easier format to read.

Ms. Hunsicker seconded the comment.

Ms. Martin echoed the comment and thanked the Veterans Committee for all their hard work, as well as those that helped bring the Veterans Day Ceremony together.

Ms. Duckett echoed Ms. Martin's comments. She also sent out prayers to Reverend Quann who is recovering from an illness.

Adjournment Time:

Ms. Duckett made a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker. Motion passed 4-0.

Michelle Farzetta