

LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Grey, Chair
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
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Ken Amey, Zoning Officer
Chuck Wilson, Finance Director
Tom Speers, Esq., Solicitor
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. which is being held virtually on 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 on July 1, July 14, July 15, July 16 on personnel matters.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Receipt of Minutes: June 23, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the June 23, 2020 meeting minutes. The Chair asked if there were any comments. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve the June 23, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5 - 0.

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

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

Receipt of Invoice History: April, May, June, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the Invoice History for April, May, June, 2020. The Chair asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to accept the Invoice History for April, 2020 in the amount of \$340,077.50; May, 2020 in the amount of \$449,018.98; and June, 2020, in the amount of \$989,114.30. The motion passed 5 - 0.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Authorization to Advertise an Ordinance Vacating Meeting House Road

Mr. Amey stated a portion of old Meetinghouse Road was abandoned when the new Meetinghouse Road was extended to Rt. 202. He stated the road bed traverses the property owned by Foulkeways and is part of their subdivision. He stated Foulkeways proposed the abandonment of that roadway. Mr. Amey said the abandonment was discussed at the Planning Commission and the Building and Zoning Meeting indicating that the North Penn Fire Company have a guaranteed access to the Foulkeways' area and continue to store their equipment at Foulkeways. The North Penn Fire Company also requested a signed lease from Foulkeways. The Chair asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to authorize the advertisement of an Ordinance - Vacating Meetinghouse Road. The motion carried 5 - 0.

Resolution No. 2020 - 15: Lot Line Adjustment - 811 Brushtown Road (Gleit) and 1321 Gypsy Hill Road (Feller)

Mr. Amey stated this lot line adjustment is a simple single lot subdivision approval between 811 Brushtown Road (Gleit) and 1321 Gypsy Hill Road (Feller). He stated the lot line between the property at 1321 Gypsy Hill Road and the property at 811 Brushtown Road shall be adjusted. He stated the plan shows a .38-acre tract of land shall be conveyed from the applicant (Gleit) to an abutter (Feller) and a .38-acre tract of land shall be conveyed from an abutter (Feller) to the applicant (Gleit). The Chair asked for comments from the supervisors and public. There were none. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to adopt Resolution No. 2020 - 15: Lot Line Adjustment-811 Brushtown Road (Gleit) and 1321 Gypsy Hill Road (Feller). The motion passed 5 - 0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2020 – 16: Authorizing the establishment of an account with ICMA Retirement Corporation for administration of the DROP Plan

Mr. McAnally stated the DROP Plan is a deferred Pension Plan for Police which is taken 4 years before a policeman's departure. He stated the DROP Plan freezes the Pension for that 4-year period so they get a lump sum at retirement. Mr. Wilson recommended the Township set up an administration plan with ICMA-RC. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to adopt Resolution No. 2020 – 16: Authorizing the establishment of an account with ICMA Retirement Corporation for administration of the DROP Plan. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Solicitor's Appointment

The Chair stated we had three rounds of solicitor interviews with many qualified attorneys. He stated the interviews were moderated by Ryan Cassidy, Township Labor Attorney. The Chair asked for Supervisors comments. Ms. Hunsicker stated it was a robust process and residents should feel we were thorough. Mr. Brandt seconds Ms. Hunsicker's comments. Ms. McNeely thanked all the firms who took part in this thorough and fair process. Ms. Duckett echoed the Supervisors' comments and appreciated everyone's patience. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to appoint Neil Stein, Kaplin Stewart, as the new Solicitor for Lower Gwynedd Township. The motion passed 5 – 0. The Chair congratulates Mr. Stein. Mr. Stein stated it will be an honor and privilege working with the Board and serving the community without bias. The Chair stated Mr. Speers has done an outstanding job. Mr. Speers stated he will stay on for 30 days for a transition period. Mr. Speers thanked the Board.

Authorization to Advertise the Trash Bid

Mr. McAnally stated the Township's last three-year contract was in 2015 with a two-year option to extend. He explained that recycling is no longer paying anything and we may see an uptick in the cost. He stated residents are currently paying \$350.52 a year. The Chair stated he does not want recycling to go to landfill but does not want to pay an exorbitant trash fee. The Chair asked if there were any comments from the Supervisors. Ms. Duckett stated some residents were not happy that they could not choose their own hauler, and asked if that is how we are going forward. Mr. Brandt, who was President of the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Group, stated he championed the one hauler trash system because it is better for township roads and pricing is better. Mr. McAnally stated we no longer have an optout provision. Ms. Worman stated in our current ordinance there is a requirement for a single hauler. The Chair asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Mr. Brandt

made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to authorize the advertisement of the Trash Bid. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorization to Purchase Computer Upgrades and Switch

Ms. Worman stated staff is requesting authorization for the replacement of three new workstations which will complete the initial 2018 project. She stated the Board approved the allocation of \$9,300.00 in the 2020 Budget. She stated the Township's IT Consultant, All Covered, provided PA COSTARS contract pricing for the equipment in the amount of \$6,716.67. She also requested authorization to replace two 24-port network switches with one 24-port switch and one 48-port switch. The Board of Supervisors allocated \$8,832.00 in the 2020 Budget for the Network Switch. The pricing for the upgrade is quoted at \$8,620.37. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to authorize the purchase of Computer Upgrades and Switch in the amount of \$6,716.67 for computers and \$8,620.37 for the switches. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Authorization to Purchase Audio/Visual Equipment

Ms. Worman stated originally staff requested proposals before COVID for recording Board meetings and upgrading the audio/visual equipment in the main boardroom. She stated staff then reached out for additional proposals. She stated a quote from Delco Solutions LLC (Co-Stars vendor) was recommended by Wissahickon School District. Delco Solutions LLC proposal was received for the purchase and installation of Audio/Visual Equipment in the amount of \$55,518.00. Ms. Duckett asked is they provide technical assistance and if that would be additional. Ms. McNeely asked what type of warranty is provided. The Chair stated a support agreement for the systems life cycle is important. He recommends we table this item until the next meeting. He thanked Ms. Worman for her thorough job. Debra Schaeffer, Penllyn Pike, stated hardware and maintenance should be included.

Purchase of Drone

Chief Kenny asked the Board for approval to purchase one new drone for use by the Township Public Works and Police Department in the amount of \$2,382. He stated the Township will be considered commercial use. He stated he selected two officers to attend both the three-hour virtual training courses and forty-hour law enforcement drone training and accessories in the amount of \$2,580. He stated it is recommended that two training drones be purchased in the amount of \$423.94. The total for the drone, training and accessories is \$5,385.94. Ms. McNeely asked what other employees will be certified. Mr. McAnally stated someone from Public Works and Park and Recreation will attend training later. Ms. Duckett asked how to prevent lawsuits on privacy. Chief Kenny stated it will be used for Public Safety. Ms. Duckett would like a policy on procedures and best practices for another layer of protection. Chief Kenny replied he

will follow-up. There were no other comments. Mr. Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely authorizing the approval to purchase a drone in the amount of \$2,382; training in the amount of \$2,580; and training drones in the amount of \$423.94 for a total of \$5,385.94. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Works Appointment

The Chair stated Mike DeStefano moved on in March and staff was looking for his replacement. Mr. McAnally stated the Board interviewed a few applicants and Fred Zollers, of Hatboro was selected as the Public Works Director. He stated Mr. Zollers has worked for the Borough of Hatboro as Public Works Superintendent, Borough Manager and Fire Chief. He stated Mr. Zollers has twenty-one years' experience and will start on August 10, Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandt to employ Fred Zollers as the Lower Gwynedd Township Public Works Director. The motion passed 5 – 0. Ms. McNeely thanked Mr. McAnally, Ms. Worman and Supervisor Hunsicker for the excellent candidates; it was a lengthy process. Mr. McAnally stated Mr. Zoller is not present tonight because he is working.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Debra Schaeffer, 8232 Penllyn Pike, asked if there are any plans to repair the trails on Dager and Penllyn which need maintenance. Mr. McAnally stated he will pass that on to Public Works.

Mr. Dimond, 320 Arbor Lane, asked Ms. McNeely and Ms. Duckett to explain the Republican backroom deals they referred to in their election campaigns. Ms. Duckett stated during the campaign that was related to insiderism and how things were decided because it was not transparent. Ms. McNeely stated the Board is working to improve communications and she agrees with Ms. Duckett. She stated we are working together and moving forward. Mr. Grey thanked Mr. Dimond for his comments.

There were no further comments.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager – Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally had nothing further.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. Hunsicker wanted to publicly thank Harvey Salwen for his donations over the years to the Police Department. She also thanked Sal Paone for his contribution to the

Police Department. Ms. Hunsicker welcomed Neil Stein and Fred Zollers to the Township. She stated the Board made two excellent choices.

Mr. Brandt seconded Ms. Hunsicker's comments and congratulated our newly appointed Solicitor, Neil Stein and our newly appointed Public Works Director, Fred Zollers. He questioned Ms. McNeely regarding the communications manager and asked for an explanation. The Chair stated Ms. Worman put together an RFP (request for proposal) to investigate what is available in the communication area. Ms. McNeely stated it was discussed at the end of the last meeting.

Ms. Duckett echoed the previous statements of the supervisors. She thanked Mr. Speers for helping the Township through the past months. She told Mr. Stein she was very impressed with his interviews and touched by the empathetic way he cared about his community. She thanked Fred Zollers and welcome him to the Township.

The Chair thanked the other applicants that applied, and commented it was a nice selection.

He thanked those in attendance for attending tonight's meeting.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled on August 25, 2020 which will be held virtually on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Culbreth

Assistant Secretary