

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

Craig T. McAnally, Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Assistant Secretary
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Chad Dixson, McMahan Associates, Traffic Engineer

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building and virtually on Zoom and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Announcement: Tonight's Board of Supervisors Meeting is being video recorded. There was an executive session prior to the meeting regarding personnel issues.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Receipt of Minutes: February 28, 2022

The Board of Supervisors received the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes. There were no comments. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Public Hearing to Consider Amendment to Zoning Code to Permit Sponsorship Signs for Lower Gwynedd Little League at Township-Owned Fields

Ms. Duckett stated that the adoption of this amendment was discussed at the February 28th Board of Supervisors' Meeting. Mr. Twersky explained that he had been approached by members of the Lower Gwynedd Little League regarding putting up sponsorship signs on the field to help raise money for the league. Chris Wilson from the Lower Gwynedd Little League thanked the Board for their consideration.

Mr. Wilson, explained that there is so much more than the upkeep of the fields and uniforms to keep the Little League running. Up to this point they have been able to handle these expenses through fundraisers, however, they now have other issues to address and having these sponsorship signs will

help raise more money to address bigger projects, such as bathrooms. The fields will be kept nice and respectful. They will not allow them to yuck up the neighborhood.

Ms. Hunsicker then asked that amendment number 6 (*Permitted sponsorship signs shall be erected and maintained solely by the LGLL in good condition and at its sole expense. Any sign that is not in good condition shall be immediately removed by the LGLL.*) be left up to the Township to determine. Mr. Stein stated that this is an amendment to the current zoning code. It is a Lower Gwynedd Zoning code and it is already understood that the Township would be the ones to make any decisions regarding replacement or removal.

Mr. Stein then stated that this amendment has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Township Planning Commission, Montgomery County Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Board and was properly advertised under Article 6 of the Municipalities Planning code.

Ms. Hunsicker told the Little League that they provide a great amenity to the Township and want to continue a relationship and help them be successful. A motion was made by Mr. Twersky and seconded by Ms. Hunsicker, to approve the amendment to the Zoning Code permitting sponsorship signs for Lower Gwynedd Little League at Township-owned fields. The motion passed 5-0.

Consideration for a Waiver of Land Development for Harth Builders at 812 N. Bethlehem Pike

Tim Woodrow, Civil Engineer representing Greg Harth and his proposed project at 812 N Bethlehem Pike, was present to give a presentation. He explained that his client would like to repurpose this property and make it the new home for Harth Builders. Ms. Worman shared photos and drawings of what they would like to do with the building to help understand the proposal for tonight. Mr. Woodrow explained the photos. This would be the first phase and they will return when it is time for a land development plan. Mr. Harth would like to be in the new building before the lease on his current location expires in the fall. These plans have been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Township Planning Commission, Fire Marshal Al Comly, Gilmore and Associates and McMahan. Harth is willing to comply with any of their suggestions. Mr. Woodrow also explained that there are some stormwater management items that they will need to take care of in relation to this project. Any trees removed will be replaced or a fee in lieu will be provided. Ms. McNeely appreciated the investment into the building, but wanted to know how many trees will be affected. Mr. Woodrow stated that after a conversation with Jim Hersh it looks like about 27 trees would be affected, but will reassess and see if they could save some of them. Ms. McNeely would like the pleasant park-like look to be maintained at the property. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion to approve the waiver of land development for the Harth Builders 812 N. Bethlehem Pike project. Mr. Twersky seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Hunsicker thanked Mr. Harth for his long-standing commitment to the Township and she is thrilled that this building became available. Mr. Harth thanked her and said there was not a lot available in the

Township, but he is happy this building opened up. Ms. Duckett commented that it is a beautiful building and thanked him for bringing this to the Township.

OTHER BUSINESS

Presentation By William Blair from Wireless Realty Advisors on Cell Coverage Mapping Survey

Mr. Blair was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. This will be rescheduled.

Proposal from McMahon on Traffic Study at Wister Ave and Penllyn Blue Bell Pike Intersection

Mr. Dixon prepared a proposal to provide traffic engineering services for the intersection of Penllyn Pike and Wister Ave. The proposal provides three evaluations to help address the roadway and its safety. The first option will be an all way stop. This evaluation is based on requirements of the Pennsylvania code. It is a standard scope that would be followed for the first evaluations. Part two would be short-term low-cost safety enhancements that can be implemented. Examples would be traffic control modifications, pavement markings and a flashing warning device. The third task is a longer-term future evaluation showing more significant improvements needed. If the first two options show different traffic flow is necessary, then that may require the evaluation of Penllyn Pike and Old Penllyn Pike.

Mr. Twersky asked if the traffic counts are being done from 7am -6pm will the counts be skewed post 6pm traffic? Mr. Dixon stated that once you go further into the evening the traffic starts to fall off and does not drive any types of warrants for traffic control. Data will be collected with the equipment being used and they can access the data after 6pm if necessary. Ms. Duckett asked how long the testing will take. Mr. Dixon stated about 4 weeks for the evaluation and then he will present results at that time to the board. Then tasks two and three about 2-4 weeks each. There should be a firm evaluation by the end of May. Mr. Twersky then asked could it be possible that the evaluation shows nothing needs to change? Mr. Dixon said yes, that is possible. The total cost for this proposal will be \$8,900 and McMahon can start right away. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion to approve the traffic study proposal for Wister Avenue and Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike from McMahon in the amount of \$8,900.00. Mr. Twersky seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Officer Kenny asked McMahon to take into account the school district's spring break as that will have an effect on the counts.

Authorization to Re-Advertise Lower Gwynedd Proposed Ordinance-Supervisor Term Limits

Ms. Duckett stated that this ordinance had been previously advertised in February. However, now needs to be re-advertised as the ordinance was not voted on by the board at the meeting on February 28th. There was a discussion among the board members regarding term limits in a second-class township. Ms. Hunsicker commented that she does not feel that we have the authority to impose term limits, it would need to be an act of state legislature to impose these limits. Mr. Twersky asked if there

were any case law that anyone was aware of that would prevent term limits from being imposed. Mr. Stein had sent an email communication earlier in the day that stated more information regarding term limits and there did not appear to be any specific cases. Ms. Duckett stated that the second-class township code does not state that term limits can or cannot be imposed. Imposing term limits would fall under "Good Government". Mr. Stein stated that New Garden Township in Chester County has imposed term limits and they are a second-class township.

Mr. Twersky stated that while both Ms. Martin and himself were campaigning they went around and spoke with the residents. While speaking with them, residents asked about putting limits on terms, so others had a chance or felt more comfortable running for a supervisor position. We need to listen to our residents. We have a solicitor to rely on to make sure we are following the proper laws.

Ms. Hunsicker also commented that by imposing these term limits, if a previous supervisor did decide to run again, after a 6-year break, this is an additional requirement to an individual's eligibility to be able to run. It is not our prerogative to add this requirement, it is up to the state legislature to do this. Mr. Stein stated that he spoke with the general counsel from PSATS and he was not aware of anything either. Motion was made by Mr. Twersky, seconded by Ms. Martin to re-advertise the proposed ordinance to impose term limits for supervisors. The motion passed 4 ayes (Duckett, Martin, McNeely, Twersky) to 1 nay (Hunsicker).

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There was no public comment.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report from the Manager - Municipal activities, projects

Mr. McAnally said newsletters are in mailboxes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EAC Committee Update

Ms. McNeely stated that the EAC is getting ready for Earth month in April. They have many activities planned, including planned bird walks, a presentation from Republic Services on recycling discussing what can be recycled, where the trash goes and what we can do and a clean-up on the Route 309 off ramp on April 9th. More activities are in the planning stages, and will be announced when finalized. The energy committee will be having a demonstration on Solar Energy.

EMS Update

March 14, 2022

Ms. Hunsicker met with both the North Penn Fire Company and the Wissahickon Fire Company along with Ms. McNeely to gather information from them. There will be a more formal meeting in April or May and then she will have information to share.

Parks and Recreation

Ms. Martin said that they completed the tour of the parks with Gilmore Associates. The committee is excited to see the suggested changes. Jim Hersh, from Gilmore and a co-worker, who was very knowledgeable about playground revitalization, discussed solutions and ideas. Gilmore is working on a proposal that will show phases prioritizing the needed improvements.

Historic Committee, Bethlehem Pike Revitalization Committee and CAAA

Ms. Duckett stated that they are reviewing applications for these Committees and will be setting up interviews soon.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. McNeely had no comment.

Ms. Hunsicker had no comment.

Ms. Martin had no comment.

Mr. Twersky had no comment.

Ms. Duckett had no comment. She requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Twersky made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Farzetta
Assistant Secretary