

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Interim Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Assistant Secretary
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
James Hersh, Gilmore Associates Township Engineer
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building and virtually on Zoom and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Duckett stated that there were executive sessions held today prior to tonight's meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Ms. Duckett then made additional announcements regarding upcoming events in the month of November. These events included a Veteran's Day Ceremony, electronic recycling event and a Toys for Tots collection.

PRESENTATION

Approval of Resolution #2022-28 to Accept the \$1,325,000 PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant Awarded for a New Public Works facility.

This resolution is acceptance of the RACP grant in the amount of \$1,325,000 for a new Public Works Facility. Acceptance of this resolution allows the BOS, Township Manager and Assistant Township Manager to complete and execute all applications, agreements and any other such documents to release funds for the project. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky to approve Resolution #2022-28. Motion passed 4-0. (Ms. McNeely was not present for the vote)

Presentation from Senator Maria Collett and Representative Liz Hanbidge for the PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant

Senator Collett and Representative Hanbidge attended the meeting and presented the Supervisors with a big check for the RACP Funds. Pictures were taken with the supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dick Target, 32 Austin Circle from the Veteran’s Committee spoke asking the BOS to attend the Veteran’s Day ceremony on Friday, November 11 at 11am. The ceremony should last about 40 minutes. Mr. Target asked for assistance from the police with those needing to cross the road. He also asked that the Veterans Memorial Park be cleaned up and trees trimmed.

Pedro Geraldino – 955 Gladestry Lane asked Ms. Gleason for the projects that will be included in the 2023 budget. He also wanted to know what grants were being applied for and if those funds are not awarded how much of a “safety” net do we have to fund those projects. Ms. Gleason replied that she would look into it and contact him with some answers via email.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Resolution #2022-26 Preliminary/Final Approval of the Gwynedd Estates (ACTS Retirement / Life Communities, Inc.) Land Development Plan

Bernadette Kearney, Esquire from HRMM & L, stated that they are seeking final approval of the land development plan for the addition of a building for 40 skilled nursing unites, additional parking and reconfiguration of the existing access drives and two subsurface infiltration basins that they presented at the last meeting along with the requested waivers. Ms. Kearney also stated that she included the agreement with Old York Road Country Club in the resolution. Dan Steinman, 800 Norristown Road, asked to see where the new building and parking was going to be on the development plans. Mr. Twersky pointed the area out on the land development plan projected on the screen. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve Resolution #2022-26 granting preliminary/final land development approval to Gwynedd Estates. Motion passed 5-0.

Resolution #2022-27 Hughes Request for Extension of Requirement to Post Escrow for the 776 Johns Lane Subdivision

Bernadette Kearney, Esquire from HRMM & L, spoke on behalf of Christian Pionzio. She explained that this resolution will allow the Hughes family an extension to fund the escrow account for their approved subdivision plan for a period of one year. Ms. Martin asked if the applicant had signed the resolution. Mr. Twersky asked if the escrow will take into account the current economic conditions. Mr. Stein replied yes and the escrow will be recalculated if necessary. Mr. Twersky made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin to approve Resolution #2022-27. Motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATION

Presentation of Good Citizen Award and Phillis Road Sign to Noah Beck

Noah Beck created a lot of excitement in Lower Gwynedd with his idea to change Houston Road to Phillis Road during the 2022 World Series. The township loved the idea and made the change happen. Noah Beck attended the BOS Meeting to accept the Good Citizen Award along with the Phillis Road sign that we had made. The sign was made by Stephen DiGiovanni and John DiGiovanni from Concours Auto. Both Stephen and John also attended the meeting. Pictures were taken with Noah, his family and the BOS.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2023 Budget- Presentation of Preliminary Budget and Discussion

Ms. Gleason went over the proposed 2023 budget. Mr. Twersky asked for clarification as to whether an expenditure is automatically authorized if it is in the budget. Ms. Gleason's response was yes and no. The bigger purchases will go to the BOS for approval. This is the work plan, not just the financial plan. So, this gives staff their marching orders. Therefore, if there is anything the BOS does not want to move forward with, they should mention it now.

The operating funds are balanced and the capital projects need to be assessed now. Eight percent of our revenue in 2022 was through tax sources. E-Collect is looking at those not paying the BPT. So far, they have collected roughly \$5000, but anticipate \$75,000 to \$100,000. Ms. Martin asked why the EIT actual and the projection have such a big gap. Ms. Gleason replied that Berkheimer pays in quarters, so we have not yet received the payment for this quarter. Mr. Twersky asked about the DVIT rate stabilization fund. Ms. Gleason explained that DVIT maintains funds that they make available based on how long we have been with them. Ms. Gleason stated the hydrant fund might need to be increased or funds shifted around. It is balanced for now, but we might want to adjust the milage. Ms. Duckett stated that it might be a good idea to be proactive. Ms. McNeely asked about the funds for the fire companies. We have discussed changing the number previously, so could we make any changes mid-year with a resolution. Ms. Gleason responded no, real estate tax bills will be going out early, it can be discussed mid-year and be ready for 2024. The capital reserve includes working with fire companies about the vehicles that they will need. There was discussion about merging some of the funds together, as it would make the job of putting the budget together easier. The sewer fund is how we pay for the sewage to be treated at the Ambler Waste Water Treatment Plant. Sewer operating remains flat. Ms. Gleason suggested ARPA Funds be used toward the EMS services and document scanning, as well as the Old Bethlehem Pike Bridge repair, if we do not receive the Local Shares Grant. Ms. Gleason wanted to draw attention to page 37 in the General Fund pertaining to transfers. By December, there will be a better idea of fund balance so the BOS can see what funds are from grants and where money is coming from. There was a large transfer into the open space fund this year, probably for the public works facility. Ms. Martin asked if the money should be moved to the capital projects? Ms. Gleason said maybe, she wants to take a deeper dive. Ms. Duckett asked if keeping the open space fund make sense? Ms. Martin stated maybe in the winter or spring reassess and see what can be done to make adjustments to the funds, possibly combine. Ms. Martin noted that the amount budgeted for the tree giveaway is not correct. The total is supposed to be increased by \$15,000. Ms. Gleason agreed and said she will make the change.

2023 Budget- Authorization to Advertise Preliminary Budget for Public Comment

Ms. Duckett made a motion to advertise the 2023 Budget, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker. Motion passed 5-0.

Receipt of Minutes: October 17, 2022 and October 25, 2022

The BOS received the October 17, 2022 Budget Workshop meeting minutes and the minutes from the regular BOS meeting on October 25, 2022. There were no comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky to approve all meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee Updates

STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Hersh stated that he met with Mr. Zollers regarding the stamped concrete on Hunt Seat Drive. However, before giving an update he would like to consult with Mr. Stein. He has asked to table this until the next meeting.

Chief Kenny stated that the CRU had a successful food drive event on Saturday for the Mattie Dixon Cupboard. He also stated that Stephen DiGiovanni and John DiGiovanni from Concours Auto do all the work for the Police Department. They do an excellent job and wanted to make sure he recognized their work.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. McNeely congratulated those who worked so hard to get the Million Dollar RACP Grant awarded.

Ms. Hunsicker thanked Ms. Gleason and her staff for all the hard work getting the budget done.

Ms. Martin had no comment.

Mr. Twersky thanked everyone for their work on the budget.

Ms. Duckett thanked Senator Collett and Representative Hanbidge. She thanked Noah Beck for coming this evening to receive his award and sign and the Public Works staff for the quick turnaround in getting the street sign made and to Concours Auto for their great work. She then reminded everyone about Election Day and the Veterans Day ceremony on Friday morning at 11 a.m.

Ms. Duckett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. McNeely. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Farzetta
Assistant Secretary