

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023**

SUPERVISORS:

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

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Interim Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Administrative Assistant
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Jim Hersh, Township Engineer, Gilmore
Chad Dixson, Traffic Engineer, McMahan a Bowman Company

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. 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 met in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss matters of personnel, real estate and litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Authorization to advertise an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance removing permit requirements for campaign signs

This ordinance will amend the zoning ordinance as it relates to campaign signs. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky to authorize advertisement of this ordinance. Motion passed 4-0

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion about recommendations in the Houston Creek Flood Study

Mr. Hersh, Township Engineer, gave a detailed presentation and update regarding the Houston Creek Flood Study. For this study Gilmore looked at the current existing drainage systems and analyzed the capacity to handle flow from the dam on Wissahickon School District's property to the SEPTA Culvert beyond Ambler Yards. There are some choke points along the way that are contributing to the flooding issues. These points were identified and discussed. At the Spring Garden culvert there is sediment and debris collecting in the pipes. This is owned by PennDOT and increased routine maintenance should be addressed. Regarding the

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dam on the school district property, it is regulated and maintained, however it is not big enough. Gilmore offered a number of recommendations that could be grouped together or implemented separately to reduce the flooding issues. Mr. Hersh stressed that even if every recommendation was implemented, there would still only be about a 66% reduction in flow. Mr. Hersh is going to put together pricing for each recommendation.

Award bid for construction of Spring House Phase 2 Roadway Improvement Project to James D. Morrissey, Inc. in the amount of \$2,456,568.18

Mr. Dixon stated that bids for the Springhouse Phase 2 project have been received and the low bid was James D. Morrissey, Inc for \$2,456,568.18. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for April 11th. He will work with staff to notify residents and to post information on the township website. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to award the Spring House Phase 2 project to James D. Morrissey. Motion passed 4-0.

Consideration of extension of option deadline for Wells Fargo lease

Wells Fargo has asked for an extension to exercise their lease option or renegotiate the lease from April 30, 2023 to May 31, 2023. More time is needed for them to work through their internal review process. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to grant the extension. Motion passed 4-0.

Consideration of extension of two-year option for trash & recycling hauler's contract

Our trash contract with Republic Services expires on October 31, 2023. Under the current contract there is a two-year extension provision. The extension option must be initiated six months prior to the expiration. Staff has reached out to other single hauler municipalities through the Montgomery County Consortium and found that there has been an increase of almost 50% in the cost of their trash contracts. Ms. Worman and Ms. Gleason have met with a representative from Republic to discuss extending the current contract. Republic is interested in continuing to serve Lower Gwynedd at the same rate increase of 3% annually consistent with the existing contract. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky to extend the contract with Republic for two years. Motion passed 4-0.

Resolution #2023-10 Disposition of Records

Resolution No. 2023 - 10: Disposition of Records coincides with E-Cycle Shredding Day scheduled for April 1st. The records will be disposed of according to the schedules and procedures set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008 and as amended March 28, 2019. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin to adopt this Resolution. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Approval of invoice history - February 2023

The BOS received the invoice history for February 2023 totaling \$309,141.88. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve the invoice history. Motion passed 4-0.

Receipt of financials YTD and balance sheet - February 2023

The supervisors received the Year-to-Date Financials for February 2023. There were no questions or comments for the BOS.

Approval of minutes - March 8, 2023

The BOS reviewed the minutes from the March 8, 2023 meeting. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin to approve the minutes. Motion passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historic Committee spent a large part of meeting discussing historical markers. They also discussed historic properties within the township, such as the Owen Roberts property. The committee is going to focus on the McCormick House/Gwynedd School so they can give a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Committee for Ingersoll Park, as the structure is on that property.

Parks and Recreation reviewed the master plan for Ingersoll, Oxford and Pen-Ambler Park. The subcommittees had meetings with other affected parties impacted by the master plan. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Penllyn Woods on April 1st.

Ms. Worman gave an update regarding the Tree City application. She received notification that we have been approved.

STAFF UPDATES

- **Gypsy Hill Road pedestrian safety** – Mr. Dixon gave an update regarding the concern for pedestrian safety on Gypsy Hill Road. The existing conditions were reviewed and speed data was collected by the police. All signage and pavement markings are consistent with what one would typically see. Adding pedestrian areas would be difficult on that road. Mr. Dixon is recommending we submit a request to PennDOT to complete a safety review for any enhancements to control speed. The issue can also be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan that is currently being worked on with the Montgomery County Planning Commission. When asked about a timeframe, Mr. Dixon said to be patient, it could be a few months for PennDOT to complete.
- **McKean Road pedestrian improvements** – Mr. Dixon stated that the necessary easements have been received and signed. Construction will start the first week of April and should be done by Memorial Day weekend. He will work with staff getting updates out to residents via the website.
- **MontCo 2040 grant extension requests** – Ms. Worman stated that she has submitted a request for an extension on the grant for the Dager Road pedestrian crossing as it currently expires on June 30, 2023. She also asked for an extension on the grant for the pedestrian improvements along Bethlehem Pike. We already received an extension due to Covid. We have not received any word yet on the extensions. They will get in touch with us soon with a response.
- **Ingersoll Park field reconstruction timeline** – Mr. Hersh met with the contractors for the Little League fields. They have decided to delay the work until the summer when Little League season is over. It is too much work to get done in a short period of time. The Little League understands and will get the fields ready for the season as they typically would.
- **Grants for Old Bethlehem Pike bridge and Gwynedd Friends bus shelter and walkway** – Ms. Gleason stated that we have received the grants for both projects and total amount of funds requested. We are still waiting on a grant amount for the PCP grant.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

There were no comments from Ms. McNeely, Ms. Martin or Mr. Twersky. Ms. Duckett thanked staff and ECON for their hard work completing the grants we received. She also thanked Representative Hanbidge and Senator Collett for their advocacy in receiving them.

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Adjournment

Ms. Duckett made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mr. Twersky. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Farzetta

Administrative Assistant