

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

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

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
Chad Dixon, McMahan Traffic Engineer

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:05 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 personnel matters. Ms. Duckett then made additional announcements regarding upcoming events in the month of October and beginning of November. These events included Halloween activities through the CRU, a Movie night through the Parks and Recreation Department and a dedication of the Solar Work Station at Ingersoll Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Jones, 390 Mansion Avenue, came with a complaint regarding campaign signs being removed. She was frustrated, as she had signs taken down three times just today. She has come to the township multiple time to complete the form and pay the fee to post her signs per the requirements in the general code. Ms. Jones would like clarification on what is permitted and not permitted. Mr. Twersky asked for clarification on who she believes is removing her signs. She replied someone other than the township. Chief Kenny was not aware of this situation and stated that if the signs are being removed and this could be handles as a routine theft call and a trespassing issue. Ms. Gleason stated that we had been receiving calls regarding signs on township property. In previous years the BOS stated that no signs were permitted on township property, so she made the decision to have them removed by Public Works. Gloria Jones, 1007 Pershing Road, stated that this is not the first-time signs were an issue. This needs to be addressed, as the current policies lack clarity. Mr. Stein stated that township can impose regulations on political signs including on private property as long as they are content neutral, time, place and manner regulations. They can also prohibit political signs on public property. The BOS weighed in on the issue. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion to keep the policy the same for now and then

have the issue addressed again once more information is gathered. This was seconded by Ms. McNeely, but failed 2 ayes (Hunsicker, McNeely) to 3 nays (Duckett, Twersky, Martin). The BOS agreed to have the township staff stay out of this right now. We will not remove any signs and the issue can be addressed again once we have more information.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Presentation of the Gwynedd Estates (ACTS Retirement/Life Communities, Inc) Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan

Bernadette Kearney from HRMM & L, Joe Hanna from Chamber Associates and Jeremy Philo from Kramer and Marks Architects attended on behalf of ACTS Retirement. Ms. Kearney presented the land development application which proposes a plan for a new building addition to house 40 new skilled nursing beds along with the associated site improvements. She stated that the stormwater and berm issue with Old York Road Country Club (OYRCC) has been resolved. Modification will be made to OYRCC eleventh hole and zoning relief will be needed for parking spaces. There is a waiver of land development dated September 16, 2022 requesting five waivers. She reviewed the waivers. Mr. Twersky asked if the agreement with OYRCC be part of the record. Mr. Stein replied that the approval could be conditioned on the agreement being executed. Mr. Stein stated that if the BOS was okay with the waivers, he will prepare a resolution for approval. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky allowing Mr. Stein to prepare the resolution. Motion passed 5-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Resolution 2022-25 Updating Lower Gwynedd's Bird Town Designation

Steve Saffier from the EAC stated that the Bird Town started in 2011 under the Audubon Society. It is now operated under the Bird Town Pennsylvania under the Audubon Council. Mr. Saffier stated that EAC recognizes that the Bird Town designation is a powerful tool to promote a culture of conservation in our community. Bird Town will help the EAC to educate residents about conservation actions they can take to create a healthier more sustainable environment for all birds and wildlife. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve the resolution updating Lower Gwynedd's Bird Town designation. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of EAC Proposal to Add Stream Crossing Signage

Ms. Duckett stated that the EAC is proposing to install stream crossing signs on the three main streams Trewellyn Creek, Willow Run and Penllyn Creek. Each stream will receive five signs in each direction for a total of thirty signs. The total cost for this project will be \$1,170. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker to approve the request for stream signage in the amount of \$1,170.00. Motion passed 5-0.

2023 Budget - Expense Overview

Ms. Gleason stated that the staff is finalizing the budget for 2023. Most of the funds are almost complete and it appears we will not be looking for a tax increase. The Township has received \$1.2 million in ARPA funding from the federal government. ARPA funds must be allocated by the end of 2024 and used by the end of 2026. There was discussion at the budget workshop regarding using these funds for the Old Bethlehem Pike Bridge if the grant funding isn't awarded or for stormwater management. Ms. Gleason suggested funds be used for scanning and a one-time contribution to the

fire and ambulance companies. Ms. McNeely asked if there were any restrictions. Ms. Duckett said it can be used on just about anything other than salaries. The three items the BOS felt were most important to use the funds towards were the repairs of the Old Bethlehem Pike Bridge, Brookside Ave and the fields at Ingersoll Park. Ms. Duckett stated that using ten percent towards emergency services and using some for scanning was fine. Ms. Gleason then addressed the EAC budget. She is putting the tree giveaway budget item in the Stormwater Management Fund. Mr. Twersky asked if we had received a budget proposal form the EAC. Ms. Gleason stated we have not received a budget request form the EAC yet. Mr. Mark Schaffer form the EAC stated they plan on discussing this at the November meeting. Ms. Duckett asked if other committees should be identified for funding, such as the Historical Committee or the HRC? Ms. Gleason said we should wait and give them more time, as they are newly formed committees.

The BOS discussed Pickle Ball and whether to allocate \$5,000 in funding to restripe the basketball court at Oxford Park, and if necessary, \$30,000 for the wind screens in the future. Mr. Twersky is opposed to this, as residents will need to bring their own nets, there will be issues sharing the court for basketball and there could be an issue with the wind screens. Ms. Duckett stated that residents are begging, we should just let them have this. Some residents show up regularly to Park and Rec meetings asking for this.

Ms. Gleason then gave a snapshot of transfers from the general fund. This will give you a chance to see the amount of money that has been transferred into various capital funds.

Springhouse Phase 2 Roadway Improvement Project-Approval of Property Agreements for Right - of-Way

Ms. Duckett made a motion to approve the right-of-way and construction easements in relation to the Spring House Phase 2 Roadway Widening Improvement project, seconded by Ms. Martin. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of the Amended Interim Manager's Contract

The supervisors received an amended version of Ms. Gleason's contract extending her employment through August 31st of 2023. Ms. Duckett made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Twersky. Motion passed 5-0.

Financials YTD and Balance Sheet - September 2022

The BOS received the Financial Reports for September 2022. There were no questions.

Receipt of Minutes: October 11, 13 and 18, 2022

The BOS received the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes and the Town Hall minutes for Foulkeways on October 13, 2022 and Springhouse Estates on October 18, 2022. There were no comments. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve all meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EMS Committee – Ms. McNeely reported on the EMS subcommittee meeting that was held to discuss the NPVFC substation located at Foulkeways. NPVC would like to pursue possibly renovating the substation and use this location to store a future fire truck that they would like to order to replace an older truck. Ms. Hunsicker stated that they are still using the older truck, but it needs to be replaced. They also discussed a yearly capital input split across stations for a three-year term. However, discussions need to happen with other municipalities that utilize these stations to see what help they are offering. Ms. Hunsicker stated the committee is meeting regularly, but not monthly.

Historic Committee – The last meeting was held at the McCormick House. The interior of the house does not appear to be historic. Some members went into the attic where they were able to see that there was fire damage and looks like it was a school at some point. The only item that appears to be historic is a large stone located in the house. Any updates that have been done to the house have stripped it of its history.

Parks and Rec – Ms. Martin stated that the committee discussed Pickle Ball at Oxford Park. They also finalized plans for the movie event at GMU on the October 29th. She noted time was incorrect on the agenda. The event will start at 5pm, not 6pm. There will be signs guiding attendees where to go.

Ms. Duckett mentioned that the next Board of Supervisors meeting will be on Monday, November 7th due to election day on the 8th.

STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Worman mentioned that we received a check for \$24,000 from the Northern Montgomery County Recycling DEP Grant.

Mr. Hersh mentioned that Public Works completed phase one of the expansion of the paving at Penn-Ambler Park. He is now working on redesigning the basin. Phase two will be paving the parking lot.

Chief Kenny stated that the pick-up truck for the CRU is now complete it was donated by Bergey's Ford. It looks great and will be at the Giant for the event this upcoming weekend.

Mr. Zollers mentioned that the swings at Penn-Ambler Park have been removed. They were sent to be sandblasted and painted. Public Works will re-install them in the Spring.

Ms. Duckett asked Mr. Hersh when he anticipates having a final plan regarding the flood study on Brookside. Mr. Hersh replied the end of November. He will then schedule a meeting with Brookside residents, Ambler Yards and the school district. Any input or comments from that meeting will be taken under advisement and then a final plan will be brought to the Board in December.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

There were no comments from Ms. Hunsicker, Ms. Martin or Mr. Twersky.

Ms. McNeely stated that the bridge in Gwynedd Valley is finally open.

Board of Supervisors Minutes

October 25, 2022

Ms. Duckett mentioned that we have a lot going on this Saturday, October 29th. Please come out if you can. She also wanted to recognize Detective Beth Sanborn, who was honored at Mission Kids this past Friday.

Ms. Duckett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. McNeely. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Farzetta
Assistant Secretary