

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Mark Grey, Chairman
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 (Absent)
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Fred Zollers, Public Works Director
Ed Brown, Township Engineer
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. which is being held virtually on Zoom and is being recorded. He led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. He stated the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session before the meeting on a personnel matter.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Receipt of Minutes: August 25, 2020

The Board of Supervisors received the August 25, 2020 meeting minutes. The Chair asked if there were any questions. There were none. Ms. McNeely made a motion, seconded by Ms. Duckett to approve the August 25, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Authorization to Purchase Welsh Road Pedestrian Bridge

Mr. Grey asked Mr. Ed Brown of Gilmore and Associates to provide a background of the pedestrian bridge. Mr. Brown explained that Gilmore had received a quote from Contech off of Costars for a 50-foot pedestrian bridge, abutments, and wing walls in the amount of \$61,000.00. The complete project including the installation of the bridge and trail along Welsh Road will go out to bid next week. Mr. Grey asked how long it would take to install the bridge. Mr. Brown responded that the bridge will not be in until the end of November and then it will take a week to set the bridge. The trail installation will take another week or two. The goal would be to have the bridge installed by the end of the year and possibly the trail, but the trail may have to wait until the spring if it gets too cold. Ms.

McNeely asked where the bridge will be installed. Mr. McAnally replied that it is in between Llanfiar and Lloyd on Welsh Road. The actual bridge will go on a Township owned property that houses a North Wales Water pump station. Mr. Brandt made a motion to authorize the purchase of the Welsh Road Pedestrian Bridge. Ms. Hunsicker seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Acceptance of the Resignation of the Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector

This action was tabled.

Appointment of Interim Tax Collector

This action was tabled.

Approval of the Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector

Ms. Duckett made a motion to approve the appointment of the Deputy Tax Collector, Bernadette Dougherty. Ms. McNeely seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Advertise for the position of Interim Tax Collector

Ms. Hunsicker made a motion to advertise for the position of Interim Tax Collector. Ms. McNeely seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Resident Lesley Katz questioned what role the Deputy Tax Collector plays and for how long. Mr. Grey replied that as long as the school board and county approve the appointment, the deputy can disburse monies to various taxing authorities and can do so until someone new is appointed. Resident Debra Schaffer asked why this was happening. Mr. Grey replied that the Tax Collector has decided to resign and this is the state process we need to go through. He explained that in this case the deputy tax collector also resigned so we have to approve the deputy designated by the tax collector to continue the function of collecting taxes. Ms. Schaffer asked who is being appointed. Mr. Grey replied that Bernadette Dougherty from Ambler is being appointed.

Authorization to Advertise Budget Meeting for October 19, 2020

Mr. McAnally requested authorization to advertise a budget meeting to be held on October 19, 2020. Mr. McAnally explained that this meeting will cover the capital budget and give a broad brush look at the operating budget for 2021. Lesley Katz questioned whether the Board receives budget updates. Mr. McAnally explained that year-to-date budget reports are provided every month. He added that in addition, any capital project that is approved through the budget always comes back to the Board for a second authorization before the expenditure is made. Mr. Brandt made a motion to advertise the budget meeting on October 19, 2020. Ms. McNeely seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Police Report

Chief Kenny gave a brief report on the Police Department. He noted speeding continues to be a major issue on most roadways within the Township. They continue to look at different ways to tackle this issue including the electronic speed signs that are placed under the speed limit signs alongside the road.

PRESENTATIONS

2019 Lower Gwynedd Township Audit by Barbacane Thornton & Company

Mr. Steven Kutsuflakis of Barbacane Thornton & Company presented the 2019 Financial Audit for Lower Gwynedd Township. He stated that the audit produced no deficiencies. There was a recommendation that the accounting procedures be compiled in a written document. That recommendation was made last year and the document is in draft form. They are recommending that the draft be finalized and formally adopted. Mr. Grey asked Mr. Kutsuflakis to explain what OPEB means for the audience. Mr. Kutsuflakis explained that it is a liability that the Township funds by setting aside money in a trust to pay for post-retirement benefits. He stated the Township is funding its liabilities and is in good shape. Mr. Brandt asked if Mr. Kutsuflakis had a recommendation for protection should the state decide to take over pension plans. Mr. Kutsuflakis explained that the Township funds are protected and held in a trust. Ms. Lesley Katz asked what the greatest risk is facing the Township. Mr. Kutsuflakis replied that with the pandemic the revenue stream would be a possible concern. He added that currently there is a very healthy fund balance and the Township is strong financially. Mr. McAnally explained that the Township is constantly monitoring the revenues and has made adjustments by delaying capital projects. Mr. McAnally thanked Mr. Kutsuflakis for his presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None heard.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor McNeely wanted to see if there were any updates to the complaints regarding trash collection beginning prior to 6am. Mr. McAnally explained that this issue comes up when there is a new driver on the route. Ms. Worman replied that she did follow up with Waste Management but hasn't heard anything more than what she already reported.

Supervisor Brandt stated that his thoughts and prayers are with Tax Collector Betty Lou Yost who is experiencing health problems at this time.

Vice Chair Duckett echoed Mr. Brandt's sentiments. She also noted that she was pleased to see in a social media thread the handling of a situation by the Police Department where people were commenting that they are thankful and appreciative of the Police Department and that made her very proud.

Chairman Grey agreed with Ms. Duckett's statement and added that staff is excellent and it is always good to hear good news.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled virtually on Zoom on September 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Worman
Assistant Township Manager