

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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 -Via Zoom  
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 7:02 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 on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and today prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and legal 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 and a Movie night through the Parks and Recreation Department.

**PRESENTATION**

**Presentation by the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership**

The Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership was represented by three members Erin Landis, Brandon Ford co-chair and Drew Shaw. The partnership is made up of thirteen municipalities and four wastewater treatment plants. These partners having been collaborating for a number of years to create a Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP), which is an adaptive management plan that contains a list of projects to pursue throughout the watershed aimed at reducing pollution in the creek and restoring the health. The plan has gone through several iterations based off of feedback provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the group is in the process of moving through plan revisions. Mr. Shaw mentioned that the group was awarded \$1.5 million in county ARPA funds to use towards some of the projects. Moving forward their action items are to submit the revised plan, draft an intergovernmental agreement that will be utilized during the implementation phase, and receive approval from the regulatory agencies. Mr. Twersky asked if the plan is approved, but it does not have the expected outcome are we still in compliance? Mr.

Shaw responded that this is a 20-year implementation plan. We are confident it will work. There are various milestones we will need to hit and metrics that will need to be utilized as we go through this and modifications may be necessary to remain in compliance. Ms. Duckett asked if they applied for ARPA funding in Philadelphia County as they're part of this partnership? Mr. Ford responded that Philadelphia will provide technical support, but they have a hard time spending money outside of their area, as further approvals are required. Ms. Duckett also asked when the plan would be done and submitted. They are anticipating by the end of the first quarter of 2023. Once the plan is approved 2023 will be spent finalizing the structure, with implementation in 2024. Each partner will be given their cost responsibilities based on population, impervious surface and wastewater treatment plants.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Darlene Centanni from The Lower Gwynedd Business Association (LGBA) spoke regarding concerns with how to move forward with the LGBA. They are having a hard time getting people to participate since the pandemic and are not able to afford continuing to run it anymore. The LGBA is open to businesses outside of Lower Gwynedd, however, some of the remaining 20 members feel as though it should be limited to businesses in Springhouse and Amber only. Currently the LGBA is looking for help and guidance from the township. Ms. Duckett asked if they would be willing to convert to a non-profit. Darlene said they would need help in doing so and necessary funding. Mr. Twersky asked what they are specifically looking for? Darlene responded help with getting people to attend meetings.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **Appointment to the Lower Gwynedd Township Human Relations Commission**

Ms. Duckett reported that there were several applicants interested in serving on this Commission, however a few were ineligible due to their residence being outside of the township or being that they held an elected position. Ms. Duckett put forth five residents to be appointed to the Human Relations Commission- Jimmy Chong, Andrew Abramson, Stella Lee, Christine Lamar and Meredith Roark. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin to appoint these residents to the HRC. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **Discussion about Ingersoll Park and Drainage Improvements by Lower Gwynedd Little League**

The Lower Gwynedd Little League (LGLL) submitted three proposals for improvements to the ball fields at Ingersoll Park to be completed this fall. The work will have to go out to public bid as the quoted prices exceed the public bidding threshold. The LGLL concerns are the playability and safety issues with both fields located at Ingersoll Park. The grading of the fields creates an issue with water drainage and washouts out and there is a steep infield transition creating a lip that is a tripping hazard. There was a discussion amongst Mr. Zollers and Mr. Hersh regarding what can be done. Mr. Zollers said that public works can fix the lip, but the infield line will be more difficult. Mr. Hersh said the drainage issue is coming from Georgetown and is a more involved project. The proposals submitted help, but over time the fields will go back to where they are now. Ms. Gleason suggested having Gilmore look at the proposals and coordinate with Mr. Zollers what portion, if any, public works would be able to do. Then, put a proposal out for bid. She also suggested taking the grant funding for one of the other parks and allocating it to Ingersoll. Mr. Twersky agreed with that plan, as more residents use Ingersoll over any other park in the township. He suggested moving dirt in to get the fields in playable condition for March. In the meantime, the Township can advertise the bid to

fix the drainage issue. Members of the LGLL Board said while they appreciate the offer to bring dirt in, this has been done before and it all washes away. These proposals would offer the help they need and with proper maintenance would hold up for a period of time. Discussion then moved to the idea of coming up with a master plan that included fixing the parking lot and the proposed snack stand with restrooms. The LGLL Board members agreed that looking at the bigger picture improvements for spectators could yield positive outcomes for all. Mr. Hersh will start working on the bid specs now, put the drainage project out for bid in January and then will be back with a proposal for approval.

### **Discussion about the Comprehensive Plan- Focus Areas**

Ms. Worman met with the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) on October 5 to discuss the Comp Plan revision and meet the planning staff. She explained that in discussion with the MCPC, we came up with the idea of starting with a focus area and then moving into the full comp plan process. The focus area would include the Springhouse Innovation Park and the former Merck property as these are the largest two parcels and are in the process of redevelopment. Ms. Worman requested feedback from the BOS on moving forward in this fashion. Ms. Duckett asked why not start with the Bethlehem Pike Business Corridor? Ms. Worman said that is a large piece that will become a main focus of the overall plan so it would delay the whole process significantly to pull that out and focus on that first. The other two properties are time-sensitive. The BOS was in agreement with the approach. Ms. Worman then mentioned that a steering committee needs to be established. Ideally it should consist of nine members some of which should also be members of the EAC, PC and the PRB. The public will also be given opportunities to provide input.

### **2023 Budget Overview of Operating Revenue**

Ms. Gleason stated that the staff has been working on the overall budget. She is presenting a snapshot to them of the Township revenue. This is a summary of all operating funds. Earned Income tax is half of the general fund. Property Taxes get the most attention if you raise rates, which is 15% of our total revenue. Eighty percent of the revenue comes from taxes. All the tax numbers documented came from Berkheimer. There is a high amount of back taxes being collected, so that is throwing the numbers off a little. These are initial revenue estimates. Some of this information can and will change.

### **Approval of the Amended Solicitation Ordinance 535**

At the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting the BOS approved the advertisement of an ordinance to amend the solicitation policies in the township. Mr. Twersky wanted to know why the update? Mr. Stein explained that the original ordinance was from 1958 and was last looked at in 2012. The previous one had no exemptions, no clause about permits being denied, or regulations on background checks and/or fingerprinting. Chief Kenny also stated that the new ordinance allows residents to register to be on a Do Not Solicit list. This will be given to those companies coming in for a solicitation permit. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve Ordinance #535 amending the Solicitation Ordinance. Motion passed 5-0.

### **Receipt of Invoice History: September 2022**

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The BOS received the Invoice history for September 2022 totaling \$736,404.51. There were no questions from the board. Ms. Hunsicker made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve the receipt of the invoice history for September 2022. Motion passed 5-0.

**Receipt of Minutes: September 27, 2022 and September 29, 2022**

The BOS received the September 27, 2022 meeting minutes and the Joint EAC/BOS minutes from September 29, 2022. There were no comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. McNeely to approve both meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee meetings since the last BOS meeting, therefore, nothing to report. Ms. McNeely did want to give a shout out to those that worked on the Tree Giveaway. The event was a huge success.

**SUPERVISORS COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the Supervisors.  
Ms. Duckett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hunsicker. Meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Farzetta  
Assistant Secretary