

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

SUPERVISORS:

Danielle A. Duckett, Chairman
Michael Twersky, Vice Chair
Janine Martin
Tessie McNeely
Jimmy Chong

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Office Manager
Neil Stein, Esq., Solicitor
Fred Zollers, Director Public Works
Paul Kenny, Police Chief
Jim Hersh, Township Engineer, Gilmore
Chad Dixson, Traffic Engineer, Bowman Company
Melinda Haldeman – Finance Director
John Farrell – Project Manager/Emergency Management Coordinator-via zoom

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:05pm 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 (BOS) met in an executive session on November 4, 2024, and prior to tonight's meeting to discuss matters of real estate and personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Residents of Montgomery Road came to voice their continued frustrations with the chiller at the Wissahickon Middle School. Irene Lewis, 513 Montgomery Road, feels the blanket installed is not working. The school district has been told to install a sound wall to help with the noise, but she feels that a different company should be used, as Harrison Acoustics has advised them incorrectly in the past. Nick Militello, 613 Montgomery Road, feels that several variables were not considered when the school district made the choice to move the chiller from inside the middle school to outside the building. Eric Rudolph, 537 Montgomery Road, has tried on several occasions to set up a meeting with the school district but has been declined. He has sent suggestions and ideas to address the issue but has not been successful. The BOS asked what the residents are asking them to do, as they are not able to tell the school district what companies they can use to perform work for the district. Mr. Rudolph replied that they want communication with the school district, and they want to be able to sit outside their homes and enjoy the neighborhood. The residents are asking the BOS to provide them with some direction to make that happen. Ms. Duckett said she would reach out to the district and see what she could do.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Consider the Decision and Order for a Conditional Use application for Ambler Yards, 300 Brookside Avenue, to modify the master plan to add two accessory storage structures behind Building #35.

A conditional use hearing was held on October 8, 2024, and October 22, 2024, during the BOS regular meetings for a modification to the Master Plan. The information provided was transcribed by a court reporter and will be available upon request. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky, to approve the decision and order for application #24-05CU authorizing the modification of the master plan to add two accessory structures for the storage of chemicals related to the operation of Entegris in Building #35. Motion passed 5-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Consider approval of Ordinance #550 setting parameters for a bond issuance

At the October 22nd BOS meeting PFM, the Township's financial advisor, reviewed the steps for bond issuance and adoption of a "parameters ordinance". PFM, Stifel (the underwriter) and Obermeyer Rebman Maxwell and Hippel (bond counsel) were all present to discuss the parameters. There are tax advantages to issuing bonds this calendar year. The process of selling the bonds is complex, and typically takes 30 days to settle. Therefore, they are targeting November 20th, 2024, as the goal date, so that the process is complete before the end of the calendar year. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve Ordinance #550 setting parameters for the bond issuance. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion about 2025 budget and authorization to advertise 2025 preliminary budget, as amended at the meeting, for public review and input

Ms. Haldeman went over the budget for 2025. She provided a Summary of All Funds that provided a higher-level overview of 2023, 2024 and 2025. Ms. Haldeman then reviewed the Total Operating Funds, General Operating Funds, Sewer Operating and Capital Funds, and Capital Funds (Revenue and Expenditures). For each of these, she reviewed the individual funds detailing what was included and any changes made for 2025. Ms. Gleason and Ms. Haldeman reviewed the Capital Projects Plan together. Building projects, road and bridge infrastructure, transportation improvements, stormwater management, park improvements, trail and pedestrian improvements, and sewer capital projects were discussed. The funding sources were provided, including those that have received grant funding, those we have applied for grant funding and those we will be applying for. The BOS had questions regarding some of the bridge projects, vehicles and the sewage plant. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky, to approve the advertisement of the 2025 preliminary budget for public review and input. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of invoice report

The BOS received the invoice report for checks dated November 12, 2024, totaling \$943,393.30. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to approve the invoice report dated November 12, 2024. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of minutes - October 22, 2024

The BOS received the minutes from October 22, 2024, BOS meeting. There were no questions or comments. Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Twersky, to approve the meeting minutes of October 22, 2024. Motion passed 5-0.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

There were no reports provided for this meeting.

STAFF UPDATES

Chief Kenny thanked Lieutenant Gargan, Sergeant Henry and Sergeant Sweeney for all their help with the VIP visits we had in our area over the past few weeks. He then shared some videos from the new bus patrol program, so the BOS could see examples of the violations that are being issued. After viewing the videos, the BOS asked if the police could provide reminders to the public regarding the laws when vehicles are approaching buses that are stopped to drop off or pick up students. Ms. Gleason asked Chief Kenny to provide information for Ms. Worman that can be included in the next e-newsletter.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Ms. McNeely stated that tonight is a great example of staff working together and congratulated the police on the VIP letter they received.
Ms. Martin echoed those comments and thanked the Veteran's Day committee for a great ceremony. She also thanked the finance department for making the budget easier to understand.
Mr. Chong echoed all the comments. He also thanked all those that attended the Volunteer Reception and thanked them for all the work they do throughout the year for the township.
Mr. Twersky echoed all these comments.
Ms. Duckett echoed all previous comments. She recognized all the events that were being held this past weekend at the same time and thanked all staff involved for making sure all the events ran smoothly. Ms. Duckett also thanked Ms. Worman for all her successful work on the grant applications this year.

Adjournment

Ms. Duckett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Michelle Farzetta