

The stated monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Lower Moreland Township was conducted on the above date in the Township Building. The meeting was also streamed via Zoom.

President Sirken called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Canale, Hausen, Odhner and Pace; Secretary/Manager Hoffman, Solicitor Rice, Engineer Woodrow, Police Chief Scirrotto, Public Works Director Woerner, Code Enforcement Officer Schadegg, Assistant Manager Lee, Finance Assistant Simmons, and two citizens. Commissioner Kuritz, Tax Collector Jane Saile and several citizens joined via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Minutes** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the Minutes of January 3 & 11, 2022. There were no additional questions or comments and on motion and second by Commissioners Sirken and Canale, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes for the month of January 2022.

**Bill List** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the February Bill list in the amount of \$1,234,047.80. Commissioner Hausen commented that the information posted on the website about the budget was accurate to what was previously discussed. There were no additional questions or comments and on motion and second by Commissioners Sirken and Canale, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Bill list for the month of February 2022.

**Vehicle Lease Resolution** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from Assistant Township Manager Lee dated 1-24-22.

Assistant Manager Lee briefly discussed and gave updates on the vehicle lease agreement that was presented at the January Board meeting. She stated that since the authorization received at the January meeting, Township staff have been working with Santander Bank, who provided the best interest rate at 2.33%, to move forward with the loan. She also stated that the police vehicles are almost ready to issue and after three years of payment the vehicles will be owned by the township.

Commissioner Hausen asked for clarifications on the price of the Chevy Tahoes. There being no additional questions or comments, on motion and second by Commissioners Sirken and Canale, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution:

#### Resolution No. 22-16

A resolution to authorize the Township Manger to execute an agreement with Santander Bank for the lease and financing of two (2) vehicles for Township use.

A complete copy of this resolution is attached hereto and made part of the minutes of this meeting.

**Cohen Law Group Proposal – Comcast Franchise Agreement** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 2-3-22, the draft engagement letter from the Cohen Law Group, and the proposal for legal services.

Manager Hoffman reviewed this agenda item recommending that Lower Moreland Township participate in the group negotiations for the Comcast Franchise Agreement to be led by the Cohen Law Group. He explained that the Comcast negotiation process is like the recent Verizon agreement. Cohen can offer reduced fees with greater participation. Manager Hoffman stated that the maximum cost exposure would be \$7,920. Solicitor Rice commented that he participated in the franchise agreement negotiations for different municipalities and was comfortable recommending Cohen Law Group.

Commissioner Hausen asked if the negotiations could include requiring Comcast to remove redundant utility poles throughout the Township. There being no additional questions or comments, on motion and second by Commissioners Sirken and Hausen the Board unanimously approved the Township Manager to sign the engagement letter with Cohen Law Group.

**Administration Report** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 2-3-22 and a memorandum from the Assistant Manager dated 2-8-22.

Manager Hoffman reviewed a few items from his monthly report. Final plans for Philmont Country Club have been submitted and Engineer Woodrow recently coordinated a staff meeting to compare the final plans to what was approved in the preliminary phase. Review letters will be issued by consultants and staff shortly.

Additionally, Manager Hoffman stated that the 1355 Grasshopper subdivision plan was reviewed and recommended with conditions by the Planning Commission. Regarding the PBA collective bargaining agreement, Manager Hoffman had a productive meeting with the bargaining leader and is hoping to bring resolution to this process soon.

Assistant Manager Lee reported that she submitted for reimbursement an additional \$9,620.73 by FEMA for COVID-19 related expenses which has been granted and payment is expected mid-February. The documents for the lower Welsh Road sidewalk construction project have been advertised for bid and will be opened on February 23, 2022. Lastly, the Summer Recreation Program is back and some information was posted on the website and Facebook. A new program director will be introduced at the March meeting.

**Tax Collector's Report** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the Tax Collector's Report for the month ending January 31, 2022. Manager Hoffman stated that the bills have not been sent yet so there is nothing to report. The opening balance for the township 2022 taxes are \$4,726,985. There were no questions from the Board or public.

**Liaison Report** Commissioner Sirken reported his virtual attendance at the recent school board meeting.

**Review Statement of Financial Interest Filing Requirement** Solicitor Rice briefly reviewed the Board's obligation to file a statement of financial interest and explained the importance of the various items included on the form. Statements of financial interest must be filed with the Township by May 1<sup>st</sup>. There were no questions from the board.

Mr. Chuck McDade of 2472 Dale Road inquired whether it was a conflict for a commissioner to have a professional contract in the Township. There were no additional questions or comments from the public.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Planning Commission Appointments** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 2-3-22 and two proposed resolutions.

Commissioner Kuritz stated that Planning Commission members Bryan Lowes and Marshall Cohen expressed their interest in continuing to serve in their roles on the commission. There were no questions from the Board or public.

On motion and second by Commissioners Kuritz and Canale, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution:

##### Resolution No. 22-17

A resolution appointing Bryan Lowes to serve as Ward 5 representative on the Lower Moreland Township Planning Commission for a four-year term commencing February 26, 2022 and ending February 25, 2026

Next, on motion and second by Commissioners Kuritz and Canale, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution:

##### Resolution No. 22-18

A resolution appointing Marshall Cohen to serve as Ward 6 representative on the Lower Moreland Township Planning Commission for a four-year term commencing February 26, 2022 and ending February 25, 2026

Complete copies of these resolutions are attached hereto and made part of the minutes of this meeting.

**Building Official's Report** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the Building Official's Report for the month of January 2022. Commissioner Kuritz reported on the Code/Building department's activities, highlighting specific permit and inspection activity from the report. There were no additional comments from the Board or public and the report was accepted as submitted.

**Liaison Report** Commissioner Kuritz announced that the Planning Commission meeting was canceled for this month and the MLK Day of Service event was postponed due to weather. There will be a tree planting at Lower Moreland Park for an earth day event with Public Works and the Library is ready for the spring egg hunt. The HVAA opening day parade is April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> is picture day.

#### ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

**451 Welsh Road Property Maintenance Code Violation Appeal** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 2-3-22.

Commissioner Odhner reviewed this agenda item and discussed the several code violations for this property which had been appealed by the property owner, Mr. Csaba Kiraly. He noted staff's recommendation to proceed with the Property Maintenance Code appeal, while withdrawing the Zoning notice and holding the Fire Code notice in abeyance. Manager Hoffman stated that he and Code Enforcement Officer Schadeegg had recently met with the applicant's nephew to review the violations and possible remedies.

Manager Hoffman advised that the Board had the option to appoint a hearing officer for the appeal hearing and noted staff's recommendation to appoint attorney Joe Kuhls to that role. Commissioner Sirken inquired what the next level would be if an appeal was filed after this hearing. Solicitor Rice said an appeal would be heard in County court.

There were no further questions or comments from the Board or public. On motion and second by Commissioners Odhner and Pace, the Board unanimously appointed Joe Kuhls to serve as the hearing officer in the upcoming hearing.

**Zoning Hearing Board Agenda** Commissioner Odhner announced the applications to be heard at the February Zoning Hearing Board meeting.

**Liaison Report** Commissioner Odhner advised he recently meet with Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust Director Chris Mendel.

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

**Historical Architectural Review Board Appointments** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 2-3-22.

Commissioner Pace reported that the terms of Historical Architectural Review Board members Luis Vicente Rivera and Bob Schadeegg are set to expire in April. Mr. Rivera meets the requirement to have an architect serving on the Board. Bob Schadeegg serves as the staff liaison to the HAR Board, but also meets the requirement of having the Building Inspector on the Board. Staff will review these positions and make a recommendation at the Board's April meeting.

**Certificates of Appropriateness** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Code Enforcement Officer dated 2-8-22.

Commissioner Pace summarized the three applications heard by the HAR Board at their February meeting. Application 22-01 from 2552 Murray Avenue seeks permission to alter the exterior finish of the property's rear yard garage. There were no questions from the Board or public. On motion and second by Commissioners Pace and Canale, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Application 22-02 from 2565B Huntingdon Pike seeks permission to re-face the current free-standing sign for a new business. There were no questions from the Board or public. On motion and second by Commissioners Pace and Hausen, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Application 22-03 from 2651 Huntingdon Pike seeks to re-face multiple signs for a new business. There were no questions from the Board or public. On motion and second by Commissioners Pace and Canale, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

**Public Works Department Report** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the Public Works Department monthly report.

Public Works Director Steve Woerner summarized his report highlighting this month's snow removal efforts. He also updated the Board on the Huntingdon Pike tree removal project which had been included in the 2022 capital budget. Public Works had been able to remove the tree stumps before the arrival of winter weather. Director Woerner also wanted to remind residents that if they notice slow drains, hear any gurgling or see water coming from a manhole to call Public Works immediately.

**Liaison Report** Commissioner Pace had nothing more to report.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**Huntingdon Valley Library Lease End of Term** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 2-3-22 and a copy of the Huntingdon Valley Library Lease Agreement.

Commissioner Canale explained that the agreement's initial term is set to expire at the end of April. He does not recommend any changes to the lease at this time and noted a provision which will extend the lease through April 2023. The Board's consensus was to allow the lease to extend which does not require any specific action.

**Police and Fire Marshal Reports** All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the police report for the month of January 2022 and the Fire Marshal's report for the month of January 2022.

Chief Scirrotto detailed local crime activity encountered over the past month and provided updates on various cases being investigated. He noted that there were very few drug

and alcohol crimes this past month. Commissioner Canale asked how Detective Brommer is handling the case load in his role as School Resource Officer. Chief Scirrotto responded that the pandemic has been very hard on the students so Detective Brommer has been busy with juvenile cases. Commissioner Kuritz commented that Detective Brommer has a good rapport with the students. Commissioner Hausen inquired about the recent incident regarding a Lower Moreland student who was assaulted and asked to describe how that investigation is going. Chief Scirrotto stated that the Police Department is investigating various leads and will be able to provide a more specific update once the investigation is complete.

Code Enforcement Officer Schadegg reported on behalf of Fire Marshal Scholly for the Fire Marshal report. He highlighted Huntingdon Valley Fire Company responses and investigations over the past month. There was a house fire in the 2500 Block of Fetters Mill Road that Lower Moreland Police and Huntingdon Valley Fire Company responded to with several mutual aid companies. In addition, a daytime crew and Fire Marshal Bob Scholly stopped by a property to help install five new smoke detectors in a home on Albidale Drive. Manager Hoffman added that over 82% of available shifts were filled during the month of January.

**Liaison Report** Commissioner Canale reported on the HVAA and Huntingdon Valley Library's recent activities.

#### PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE

**Liaison Report** Commissioner Hausen did not have anything specific to report this month as there was no Authority meeting.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Mark DeGeorge of 2414 Dale Road commented on the noise of a construction site near his home and asked the Township to respond. He also had complaints about residents not shoveling snow and asked if people are held responsible.

Mr. Chuck McDade of 2472 Dale Road asked Engineer Woodrow about the status of his review of an old storm pipe near the property boundary of 2507 and 2381 Philmont Avenue.

Ms. Denise Hellenbrand of 1036 Sheffield commented on her growing concern about public safety following the assault of a Lower Moreland student. She offered suggestions on how to improve the safety of students in the community.

**Adjournment** There being no further business to come before the Board adjournment was in order at 8:46 PM.

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Christopher R. Hoffman, Secretary