

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.

Vice-President Kuritz called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were Commissioners Sirken, Hausen, Canale, and Pace; Secretary/Manager Hoffman, Engineer Woodrow, Public Works Director Woerner, Code Enforcement Officer Schadegg, Fire Marshal Scholly, Assistant Manager Lee, Finance Assistant Simmons, and twenty-five citizens. Commissioner Odhner, Police Chief Scirroto, and several citizens joined via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Pickleball Courts – Lower Moreland Park All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 5-2-23.

Commissioner Kuritz stated that lots of consideration regarding the pickleball courts in Lower Moreland Park and the Board hears both points of view. She emphasized that neither the Board nor the staff knew how much noise and disturbance the courts would cause to the neighbors. She stated that she's spent a lot of time in Lower Moreland Park talking to residents and listening to the noise coming from the courts and can agree that it is a disturbance. Additionally, she understands that a lot of residents are passionate about pickleball and sympathizes with them and hopes to find a solution. Commissioner Kuritz reviewed the prior mitigation efforts after receiving the original noise complaint. The Board authorized expenses to install AcoustiFence screens, add a time lock gate, and plant arborvitae. She recommended keeping the Lower Moreland Park pickleball courts closed, establishing a temporary location in the Red Lion Gym, and authorizing staff to work on design ideas for constructing new courts elsewhere.

Commissioner Hausen expressed her preference for the existing pickleball courts to stay open but severely reduce the hours of operation. She stated her concern for keeping the Red Lion Gym open to public access. She also conveyed the Board values public feedback and understands the challenge created by closing the courts temporarily at the prior month's meeting.

Commissioner Canale stated he feels that Lower Moreland Park is not the right location for pickleball courts and would like to find a new location for them.

Commissioner Pace noted his concern that limiting hours could be enforced, as he's seen pickleball players bring their own nets when the courts were closed. He thinks a new location should be found.

Commissioner Kuritz requested public comment at this time.

Brett Keaton of 3368 Hillcroft Road suggested limiting times for play at Lower Moreland Park until a new location is found.

Barnett Ellis of 3886 Bradford Road stated that he does not want the courts to be moved to Red Lion Gym and suggested giving people key fobs or moving the courts to Heaton Road.

Michael Stone of 848 Red Barn Lane stated that he prefers leaving the pickleball courts open for limited hours until the Board agrees on a long-term solution.

Christine Boerner of 284 Brookdale Drive requested reopening the courts until the Township finds a permanent solution.

Steve Geiger of 820 Broadmoor Road reiterated his complaint regarding the pickleball courts and would like them to remain closed.

Seth Hyatt of 625 Woodward Drive asked the Board how people should express their voice until a decision is made.

Sheldon Wolff of 1271 Dogwood Lane stated he plays pickleball elsewhere but thought the Red Lion Gym is a good temporary location.

Commissioner Odhner reiterated the Board hears the concerns from residents regarding the closure but understands Mr. Geiger's complaint and thinks the Township should find a solution while utilizing the Red Lion Gym for temporary courts.

Judy Trichon 69 Steel Way talked about kids playing pickleball in a variety of locations with portable nets. She also stated noise happens in communities.

This concluded the discussion regarding the pickleball courts in Lower Moreland Park. On motion and second by Commissioners Kuritz and Sirken, the Board of Commissioners authorized permanently closing the pickleball courts in Lower Moreland Park, establishing temporary courts in the Red Lion Gym, and authorizing staff to prepare options for a new location for permanent pickleball courts. Commissioners Hausen and Canale voted nay.

Building Official's Report All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the Building Official's Report for the month of April 2023. Commissioner Kuritz reported on the Code/Building department's activities.

Liaison Report Commissioner Kuritz reported that there is a May Planning Commission meeting. She highlighted upcoming community events such as a Zero Waste Workshop and that the recent Earth Day tree planting was a success.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

HVAA Night Game Request – Lower Moreland Park All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 5-2-23.

HVAA baseball Director Mike Shimp requested permission for HVAA to host a nighttime baseball game in Lower Moreland Park on Friday, May 19th between 6 and 10 PM requiring the use of lights on the field. There were no questions or comments by the board or public. On motion and second by commissioners Canale and Pace, the Board of Commissioners unanimously authorized HVAA for this one-time use.

Police and Fire Marshal Reports All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the police report for the month of April 2023 and the Fire Marshal's report for the month of April 2023.

Chief Scirrotto detailed local crime activity encountered over the past month and provided updates on various cases being investigated. Officer Hashemi-Sohi and K9 Thor graduated from Scent School and the duo is now fully on duty. Also, several officers attended the annual "Out of the Darkness" Suicide Awareness walk at Lower Moreland High School.

Fire Marshal Scholly reported on fire response activities by the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company and his own fire inspection/investigation activities. He highlighted the Friday with a Firefighter program with the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company.

Chuck McDade of 2472 Dale Road asked about the status of Huntingdon Valley Fire Company's request to purchase a new ladder truck. Manager Hoffman advised the Board's direction to hire the Chief of Emergency Services position first so they may advise about purchasing the new apparatus.

Liaison Report Commissioner Canale provided monthly updates for HVAA and the Huntingdon Valley Library.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the minutes of April 11, 2023. There were no questions or comments and on motion and second by Commissioners Sirken and Kuritz, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes for the month of April 2023.

Bill List All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the May Bill List in the amount of \$2,301,775.75. Commissioner Hausen asked about the engineering fees related to preparing the annual Chapter 94 reports. 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 May 2023.

Administration Report All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 5-2-23 and a memorandum from the Assistant Manager.

Manager Hoffman stated Engineer Woodrow's office is continuing to work on the Longview Drive stormwater basin retrofit. Mr. Woodrow advised this is one of the pollution reduction plan projects submitted to DEP for the Township's stormwater system permit. The basin upgrade will change the appearance of this area to look much more naturalized. Next, Manager Hoffman stated that there are two land development applications in Bryn Athyn Borough which are in proximity to the Township. The first plan is to build a new location for the Bryn Athyn Thrift Shop on Academy of the New Church property at Buck & Byberry. Engineer Woodrow stated that he has reviewed these plans on behalf of the Borough and wanted to make sure the concerns of the community were addressed. The other plan is for a new elementary school on Tomlinson Road. One major consideration is that the current school has no stormwater management. Comparatively, the new school will require a full NPDES permit. Commissioner Hausen asked if the old thrift shop will be torn down. Manager Hoffman answered that it will since it is at the location for the proposed elementary school. Lastly, Manager Hoffman reported that he was contacted by the environmental consultant for the Bethayres Reclamation Corporation (BRC) on April 11th. They have resubmitted a draft plan to DEP for review regarding a proposal to modify the closed quarry/landfill's leachate pumping. Once DEP comments are received, he has requested a meeting with BRC and DEP to discuss what impacts neighbors could expect from revised operations at the property.

Assistant Manager Lee reported that the Summer Recreation Program registration is open, and everything has been running according to the schedule.

Tax Collector's Report All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the Tax Collector's Report for the month ending April 30, 2023. There were no questions or comments.

Liaison Report Commissioner Sirken reported that the Civil Service Commission has not met, and he continues to attend school board meetings. Commissioner Kuritz added that the April school board meeting included a presentation of the progress for the new high school.

PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Building Code Board of Appeals Appointment All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 5-2-23.

Commissioner Hausen stated that the appointment of Building Code Board of Appeals member Gene Grimaldi is set to expire on July 16th. Staff will reach out to Mr. Grimaldi to see if he is interested in continuing to serve in this capacity.

Liaison Report Commissioner Hausen reported that the Lower Moreland Township Authority met in April. She advised that Solicitor Rice has prepared a revised lease agreement for the Authority and Township to reflect the current relationship. She also reported that the sewer lines in proximity to the Bethayres Pump Station can be relined as required by Philadelphia Water Department.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DPW Facility HVAC Quote All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 5-3-23.

Commissioner Pace reported that the HVAC unit in the Public Works building needs to be replaced. Public Works Director Woerner is currently working with COSTARS-approved vendors for quotes for a new HVAC unit. It is recommended the Board authorize a cost not to exceed \$35,000. There were no questions or comments from the Board or public. On motion and second by Commissioners Pace and Canale, the Board of Commissioners unanimously authorized replacing the DPW HVAC system for a cost not to exceed \$35,000.

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

Public Works Director Woerner reported that the Department has continued prepping for the 2023 resurfacing and seal coating projects. He has continued to stay in touch with Aqua and PECO on their current utility upgrade projects. Aqua is progressing on the main replacement in the Pineview and Steven Road neighborhoods and they have been stockpiling the pipe and related materials needed for the Buck Road project.

Liaison Report Commissioner Pace had nothing to report for the HARB.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Zoning Hearing Board Agenda & Decisions Commissioner Odhner announced the applications to be heard at the May Zoning Hearing Board meeting and the decisions rendered at the April hearing.

Liaison Report Commissioner Odhner reported on updates at the Pennypack Trust.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mark DeGeorge of 2414 Dale Road asked for an update pertaining to the Westrum development site and outstanding items per the development plan.

Laura Calfayan of 3231 Maple Road asked what the responsibilities are of the Chief of Emergency Services.

Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, adjournment was in order at 9:17 PM.

Christopher R. Hoffman, Secretary