

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 Kuritz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Commissioners Canale, Hausen, Pace, Mueller and Blanton; Secretary/Manager Hoffman, Assistant Manager/Finance Director Lee, Public Works Director Woerner, Police Chief Scirrotto, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officers Matyas and Middleman, Fire Marshal Scholly, Chief of Emergency Services Showmaker, Code Enforcement Clerk Matyas, Tax Collector Saile, Finance Assistant Simmons, and sixty-five citizens. Seven 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 December 12, 2023. Commissioner Hausen requested an edit clarifying her comment regarding the mileage of patrol vehicles. There were no further questions or comments and on motion and second by Commissioners Kuritz and Canale, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the minutes for the month of December 2023.

Bill List All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the January Bill List in the amount of \$1,423,695.33. Commissioner Hausen inquired about reimbursements to Fire Marshal Scholly. Manager Hoffman and Assistant Manager Lee clarified that the Fire Marshal has a budget that covers things such as training, certifications, and supplies. When he has funds left over, he will make necessary purchases for small tools that he needs at the end of the year. There were no questions or comments and on motion and second by Commissioners Kuritz and Hausen, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the bill list for the month of January 2024.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Act Resolution – LMBA Fire & EMS Department All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 1-2-24 and a draft of an intergovernmental cooperation agreement.

Commissioner Kuritz stated that Solicitor Rice has prepared a draft intergovernmental cooperation agreement for review by both the Board of Commissioners and Borough Council regarding establishing the Lower Moreland / Bryn Athyn Fire and EMS Department. Solicitor Rice reviewed this item stating that the purpose of this agreement is to establish a joint Fire and Emergency Services Department under the supervision of the Chief of Emergency Services to coordinate and oversee all fire and emergency services within Lower Moreland Township and Bryn Athyn Borough.

Commissioner Blanton asked if there was a change in the funding schedule, would the agreement have to be re-reviewed by the Board. Solicitor Rice responded that if the funding Memorandum of Understanding was changed then there would have to be an amendment to the agreement. Commissioner Kuritz asked Manager Hoffman to explain the MOU agreement. Commissioner Blanton then asked how this proposed agreement would be affected in the event the Chief of Emergency Services position was vacant. Solicitor Rice said that the agreement should not be affected but an interim structure would be needed. Commissioner Blanton continued, asking if the agreement should establish a chain of command. Manager Hoffman expressed this would be challenging since in this interim phase, there is only one employee in the proposed department. However, he reminded the Board that both Huntingdon Valley and Bryn Athyn fire

companies have an existing leadership structure which could be relied on. Commissioner Blanton next asked for clarification on insurance and asked if there were any stipulations if one company decides to engage in a policy and if that must be approved by the Board. Solicitor Rice stated that the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act requires you to describe what insurance is necessary.

Commissioner Hausen pointed out a typo in paragraph 5 in the draft agreement.

Manager Hoffman advised the Board that Bryn Athyn Borough Council did not get to review the draft agreement at their January meeting. They will instead include this on the agenda at their February meeting. He recommends bringing a revised draft back to the Board of Commissioners in March.

Commissioner Hausen asked if the agreement would be advertised. Manager Hoffman said that while the agreement can be considered with a resolution which does not require advertising, the draft could be posted for public review prior to the March meeting.

Commissioner Meuller asked what the Township has done historically with collaborations. Manager Hoffman stated that there has not been a precedent for this scale of collaboration, however, the Township has done several intergovernmental agreements with Bryn Athyn Borough including the annual paving program and trash collection contract.

Commissioner Kuritz welcomed public comment at this time.

Chuck McDade of 2472 Dale Road asked the Board to put this question on the ballot in an upcoming election.

There were no additional questions or comments. This topic will come back to the Board at a future date.

2024 Vehicle/Equipment Lease/Purchase Program All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Assistant Township Manager dated 1-9-24.

Commissioner Kuritz stated that Assistant Manager Lee is finalizing the quotes from three banks for our 2024 lease/purchase program. This has been a successful program in recent years as larger vehicle and equipment costs can be paid over three years in the capital program. For 2024, the following vehicles and equipment from the approved capital budget are recommended; Sewer Department Truck, Stormwater Department Truck, Ford Bronco Sport, Ford Explorer (also serving as HVFC Chief vehicle), and a Chipper.

Staff recommended accepting the TD Bank rate of 5.25% for a loan amount not exceed \$360,000. There were no questions from the Board or the public. On motion and second by Commissioners Kuritz and Canale, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the purchase of these vehicles and for the loan to not exceed \$360,000.

Bank Signatures Resolutions All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 1-4-24 and two proposed resolutions.

Township staff has reviewed the current check signing policy to ensure that authorized signers are up to date. With the selection of Denise Kuritz serving as President and Joe Canale as Vice-President, the list of authorized signers for the Township's bank account should reflect the updated Board positions. There were no questions from the board or public and on motion and second by Commissioners Kuritz and Pace, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 24-12

A resolution designating TD Bank as the Township's depository and authorizing signatures for the General Fund Account.

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

Resolution No. 24-13

A resolution establishing the authorized check writing signatures for the PLGIT Account.

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

Administration Report All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 1-2-24 and a memorandum from the Assistant Township Manager.

Manager Hoffman reported that he, along with Commissioner Hausen and the Township's consulting team, met with DEP to discuss the BRC landfill site to discuss future implications for the closed landfill. While BRC will not be pursuing their pilot plan, the Township wished to be better informed about future liabilities at this site. Additionally, he reported that the Longview Drive basin project will be advertised for bid at the end of the month.

Assistant Manager Lee reported that she has been working on several internal operations items with two retirement announcements and managing the onboarding process for three new employees. She has also been preparing for the 2023 audit.

Tax Collector's Report All Commissioners, the Solicitor, and Engineer received a copy of the Tax Collector's Report for the month ending December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Hausen asked if forty-six parcels to be liened is an average number. Ms. Saile noted that last year was a bit higher but yes.

Liaison Report Commissioner Kuritz reported that she attended the School Board and LMTSD DEI committee meetings. She is also preparing for the Martin Luther King Day of Service projects.

Chuck McDade of 2472 Dale Road asked Manager Hoffman about the DCED grant the Township applied for on behalf of the School District. Manager Hoffman advised the School District's Business

Manager has requested a meeting with the State Senator and State Representative's office to discuss the grant award since the project is already complete.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Extension of Review Period – 2510 Huntingdon Pike LLC #23-05 All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 1-3-24 and a letter from the applicant's attorney dated 1-3-24.

Commissioner Mueller advised that the Township received a letter granting an extension of the review period to the township's request for the Land Development Application at 2510 Huntingdon Pike. The applicant provided a full waiver of the MPC review period for the project's duration.

Mark DeGeorge of 2447 Dale Road asked if the applicant was a business. There were no further questions from the Board or public and the extension was accepted as submitted.

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

Liaison Report Commissioner Mueller reported that there is a Planning Commission meeting in January and provided updates for the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Fire Truck Purchase Proposal All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 1-4-24 and a memorandum from the Chief of Emergency Services dated 1-5-24.

Chief Showmaker presented his recommendation for the Board to authorize the purchase of two fire trucks, including one tower truck and one engine. He reminded the Board that one of the first tasks assigned upon his appointment was to review the Rosenbauer King Cobra ladder truck which had been recommended by Huntingdon Valley Fire Company previously. He highlighted the planning conversations he had with HVFC's truck committee to help inform his recommendation to the Board and that he reviewed options which could be procured more quickly while providing similar functionality. An option to purchase a stock Pierce ladder truck through Glick Fire Equipment, the Pierce dealer in Montgomery County, presented an alternative to consider. He ultimately concluded that the Pierce mid-mount tower ladder was the best option for the Township when considering price, availability, size, and functionality.

Chief Showmaker also advised that HVFC's primary engine will reach the end of its useful life in 2025. He noted that Glick has a truck available with a November 2025 delivery which the Township may consider adding to the order now. If included, the price would be reduced by \$25,000.

Commissioner Pace asked how long it would take to receive a custom truck. Chief Showmaker responded that prior to the pandemic, it would take 12 to 18 months. Now, it may take 36 to 48 months depending on the manufacturer.

Chief Showmaker added that upcoming engine emission standards modifications are forthcoming which will add \$100,000 to any purchase price. By proceeding with both purchases now, the Township can avoid that additional expense. Commissioner Mueller reiterated the cost increase incurred by waiting on the engine purchase. Manager Hoffman explained that the Township could lock in the pricing at \$925,000 now compared to as much as \$1.2 million after the emissions standards are implemented.

Manager Hoffman summarized the financial considerations and acknowledged the challenge of bringing \$3 million of recommended purchases to the Board's January meeting. However, this is something the Township has been preparing. He kept HVFC apprised through their President of the Board's position to wait to make the truck purchase until after the Chief of Emergency Services had been hired. Within a four-month period of Chief Showmaker beginning, he was able to turnaround a recommendation for the Board's consideration. Manager Hoffman then detailed how the Pierce option would be available if the Board authorized the purchase. One day per month, Pierce releases which vehicles will be available on the line for purchase so Glick will need to be prepared to act on the Township's behalf. Once a truck is procured, staff would then bring the financing proposal back to the Board for authorization. This will include the bank loan options, trade in values, and a contribution from Bryn Athyn Borough. Manager Hoffman noted, though, that Lower Moreland Township needs to proceed with these purchases regardless of the longevity of the Township's collaboration with Bryn Athyn Borough as the larger municipality with the higher call volume. He ultimately recommended the Board authorize proceeding with the purchase of both trucks at a cost not to exceed \$3,000,000.

Chief Showmaker highlighted a letter received from HVFC earlier that day which continued to recommend proceeding with the King Cobra truck. However, the letter concluded they would work with the Township regardless of which option was selected.

Commissioner Pace asked what the value difference was between the trucks recommended by HVFC and Chief Showmaker. Chief Showmaker stated the original specification presented several years ago was for just under \$1.7 million. A revised quote was received in 2024 for \$1.96 million. Comparatively, the Pierce is being recommended for a cost not to exceed \$2.1 million. However, this was a more complete proposal than the Rosenbauer.

Commissioner Mueller inquired about the stock purchase option for a Rosenbauer truck and how long it would take to receive a custom order. Chief Showmaker stated Rosenbauer had pulled the stock option from the Township and that a custom order would take less than 48 months. Commissioner Mueller asked Manager Hoffman what the risk was to authorize a cost not to exceed prior to finalizing the financing details. Manager Hoffman suggested enough financing options would be available for the Township to consider providing the necessary flexibility in the near and long term.

Commissioner Hausen asked if borrowing this money will affect the Township's reporting. Manager Hoffman said it would not.

Commissioner Kuritz asked for clarification on the process if the Board authorizes the purchase. Chief Showmaker detailed how he would collaborate with Glick for the Township to be involved in the process to claim an available truck.

Commissioner Hausen stated that she was impressed by the stability of the Rosenbauer truck and asked if it was the same case for the Pierce truck. She then asked if the Pierce truck had a ladder with a bucket. She expressed that she did not like that the Rosenbauer had limited visibility through the front windshield, but she thinks it's only fair to let the truck committee decide.

Commissioner Pace asked if an approval would lock in the make and model of the truck. Chief Showmaker responded yes.

Commissioner Canale clarified Manager Hoffman's prior remarks that the engine would be \$925,000, so the total funding authorization would need to be \$3,025,000. He then requested public comment at this time.

John Ramsden of 3606 Heather Road provided comments to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Ramsden is an HVFC member and was one of the participants on the truck committee. He continues to recommend the Rosenbauer King Cobra as the more versatile and stable option.

There were no further comments or questions from the Board or public. On motion and second by Commissioners Canale and Kuritz, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a cost not to exceed \$3,025,000 for the two Pierce trucks. Commissioner Hausen voted Nay and Commissioner Blanton abstained.

Public Safety Reports All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the police report, the Fire Marshal's report, and the Chief of Emergency Services report for December 2023.

Chief of Police Scirrotto gave his monthly report on local crime activity and investigations from December 2023. He highlighted his participation in a recent event hosted by the Albanian-American Association of Philadelphia Bijte e Shqipes called "Albanians in Blue."

Mark DeGeorge of 2447 Dale Road expressed his outrage regarding Dale Road traffic issues during recent flooding on December 18th. Commissioner Canale responded by explaining the emergency response efforts taken that day, though he agreed that the signage should have been in place to close Red Lion Road at Pine Road. Commissioner Hausen asked Mr. DeGeorge if he had called the police during the traffic backup. Chief Scirrotto detailed the efforts LMPD has taken in recent years to update the Dale Road closure procedure. Chuck McDade of 2472 Dale Road commented that the barricades were placed on Red Lion Road beyond Dale Road instead of at Pine Road.

Fire Marshal Scholly's and Chief Showmaker's reports were accepted as submitted. They each left as the evening's storm activity was intensifying.

Liaison Report Commissioner Canale provided monthly updates for the Huntingdon Valley Library.
PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE

SEPTA Lease (Bethayres Station) All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 1-2-24 and a copy of an extension of lease agreement.

Commissioner Hausen stated that SEPTA's lease of a portion of the Bethayres Station parking lot from the Township expired in December 2023. Solicitor Rice has been working with SEPTA counsel on a lease extension and has a draft agreement to recommend to the Board. This lease provides for a one-time capital contribution of \$7,500 with a term expiring at the end of 2053. There were no questions from the Board or public. On motion and second by Commissioners Hausen and Canale, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the SEPTA lease for the Bethayres Station parking lot as described.

Historical Architectural Review Board Appointments All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 1-2-24 and a proposed resolution.

Commissioner Hausen stated that with the retirement of Code Enforcement Officer Schadegg, the building inspector position on the HARB was now vacant. Jill Matyas and Ted Middleman were recently appointed as the Township's Code Officers so they will share this role on the HARB. There were no questions or comments from the Board or public. On motion and second by Commissioners Hausen and Kuritz, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the following resolution:

Resolution No. 24-14

A resolution appointing Jill Matyas and Ted Middleman as HARB members commencing January 9, 2024 and ending April 18, 2026

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

Sanitary Sewer Department Report All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a sewer department monthly report for December 2023.

Liaison Report Commissioner Hausen reported that the Authority met for their reorganization and regular meetings on January 3rd. She announced the officer, staff and consultant appointments and the meeting schedule for 2024. Commissioner Hausen also noted the quarterly flow report was within the PWD limits.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Traffic-Related Ordinance All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of a memorandum from the Township Manager dated 1-2-24

Commissioner Blanton reported that the Traffic Safety Unit is recommending temporary no parking signs on Feters Mill Road within 40 feet of Pennypack Lane to address illegal parking concerns near the closed bridge. There were no questions by the Board or public and on motion and second by Commissioners Blanton and Pace, the Board of Commissioners unanimously authorized advertising an ordinance prohibiting parking on Feters Mill Road as described.

Commissioner Blanton also reported that the Traffic Safety Unit began a conversation with PennDOT which was completed by McMahon Associates to modify the existing signage and markings to enhance "Do Not Block the Box" notice at the Welsh Road & Walton Road intersection.

Zoning Hearing Board Agenda & Decisions Commissioner Blanton announced the applications to be heard at the January Zoning Hearing Board meeting and the decisions that were made at the December hearing. Commissioner Hausen asked for clarification regarding Application No. 24-01.

Liaison Report Commissioner Blanton had nothing additional to report.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Public Works Department Report All Commissioners, the Solicitor and Engineer received a copy of the Public works monthly report for December 2023.

Director Woerner recommended residents call Public Works to report any potholes that need to be filled. Commissioner Pace asked who owns the area across the street from Time Out on Pine because it is filled with debris. This property is owned by SEPTA.

Liaison Report Commissioner Pace reported that HVAA has started their basketball season. Director Woerner added that there is a new calendar on the website for residents to see the availability of the Red Lion Gym for open use which is secondary to HVAA's use. Commissioner Hausen asked to post the link to the calendar on Facebook.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mark DeGeorge of 2447 Dale Road inquired about the status of the emergency access gate between the 2507 and 2381 Philmont Avenue properties.

Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Board, adjournment was in order at 9:18PM.

Christopher R. Hoffman, Secretary