

**WEST POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP  
980 GROSSTOWN ROAD  
STOWE, PA 19464  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
APRIL 21, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

The Workshop Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was brought to Order by Board President; Steve Miller.

**ROLL CALL:**

Board members present were Commissioner's Miller, Palladino, La Rosa, Green and Valentine. Also present was Township Manager; Scott Hutt, Township Secretary; Joanne Herb and Township Solicitor; Jamie Ottaviano.

**MINUTES**

A motion by Commissioner La Rosa, seconded by Commissioner Green to approve the Minutes of the previous Workshop Meeting. Roll Call: Palladino; yes, Valentine; yes, Green; yes, La Rosa; yes, Miller; yes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Sewer Projects Update by Bursich Associates**

Chad Camburn, of Bursich Associates reported; the latest **Joint Sewer Meeting** we had with Pottstown Borough Authority and the other Pottsgrove's, was held on April 15, via Zoom. The biggest topic of discussion continues to be the dryer. The Pottstown Borough Authority considers that project to be complete and 100% done at this time. There are some warranties that run through June, up to July, on a few of the items. They did replace the belt mainly as a maintenance issue, and it didn't fail, but they felt it's been in activation for a long enough time that they should replace it. They purchased two additional belts, which they said they purchased them at a third of what Gryphon said the cost would be, so they saved money on those. At this time, they are done with the dryer. Vice President Palladino asked if the belts held warranties. Chad Camburn stated; my understanding is; no, the warranty elapsed at this point.

Regarding the **Quinter Street Pipe Replacement**, we reached out to three utility test locators. One had reached out to us that they will provide us with a quote. Just to remind everyone; this was to do testing to identify how deep the sewer lines are and exactly where they are, because we can't identify that with underground televising. Once we get their cost, we will certainly bring that to the Board.

Finally, my update includes the **Grosstown Road Project**; all of the pipework is in for the original contract, all of the manholes are in and they plan on testing this Friday and this coming Monday. We will be out observing that testing. We understand they will be asking for payment in the near future; they sent us a draft of their first payment request. We can't pay them the authorized payment for the manholes and pipes until they test them, making sure they're air and water tight. We met with the contractor, Scott and the Public Works yesterday on Edgewood Drive, regarding the Change Order the Township has requested us to prepare to replace the Sanitary Sewer on Acorn and Edgewood. They identified, after the PA One calls were done, that the sewer line is directly below or underneath the water main out there; for portions of it. We proposed an alteration to the sewer line and spoke with them today regarding the cost.

The good news is; they have agreed to do that for the cost this Township had already approved. There will be some additional costs associated with it, but even with those additional costs, they are still below what this Board authorized for this work. You saw the pipe that is out there for the culvert extension; they still need to get the headwall in, but that takes a little time to manufacture. Once the headwall comes in, they will install that culvert replacement. I'm working on the formal Change Order to change the contract. Even though this Board has authorized these improvements, we have to prepare a Change Order to modify the contract based on that additional scope of work. Once I finalize that, based on a few changes we discussed yesterday, I will get the contractor and Scott sign it and that will officially change the contract to include those additional items.

Mr. Hutt commented; for the **ramps** out front at the entrance of the Township Building, the concrete is in bad shape and getting worse. It's strongly advised that we make that ADA compliant. We've consulted with Chad and Jamie on this and we believe this would be the best course of action. Of course it's not cheap; we're looking at slightly under \$20,000. Mr. Camburn stated; we do a lot of ramp work in other municipalities and if you want to make them fully ADA compliant, they need to be surveyed, designed, the contractor has to install them and then as-built them to make sure they are compliant with the ADA; which is Federal law. To do that you are looking at about \$10,000 apiece. We are getting low bids in the \$7,500 to \$10,000 range per ramp, in the other municipalities we do and they're bulk-costs, meaning; we might be doing 20-30 ramps, so that's the cost we get. This contractor, JOAO Bradley; they do not do that work. They would sub that out and would have the option of either doing it as a Change Order with JOAO Bradley, which they would take a markup on that, or bid it out or get separate quotes for that contract, separate from that contract. President Miller asked, because it's under disability, is there any chance there are any Grants out there that might off-set the cost a bit? Mr. Camburn stated; not that I am aware of, but you can use Liquid Fuels funds for that.

A motion by Commissioner Valentine, seconded by Commissioner Green to approve getting bids for building the handicap ramps. Roll Call: Palladino; yes, Valentine; yes, Green; yes, La Rosa; yes, Miller; yes. Commissioner La Rosa asked if there should be a "not to exceed cost" on this motion. Mr. Camburn stated; if I may interject; you are going to want to get this work done before JOAO Bradley paves the road; just for timing purposes. PennDot requires these trenches to settle for 60 days after they do their trench paving. The contractor is going to make an effort with PennDot to expedite this before the 60 days, because those trenches have been sitting there for quite a while. If anything is going to settle, it's the stone, not the paving. Mr. Camburn continued; timing wise, it would make sense to come up with a cost you are comfortable with and move forward. If we do go out to public bid, keep in mind; that's probably a two or three month process.

President Miller noted the amended motion by Commissioner Valentine, seconded by Commissioner Green; to approve getting bids for building the handicap ramps at the Township Building, not to exceed \$20,000 for that project. We can then proceed with the project. Roll Call: Palladino; yes, Valentine; yes, Green; yes, La Rosa; yes, Miller; yes.

**Update on Municipal Projects by Bursich Associates**

Mr. Hutt reported on Ms Roesener's report;

**Nagle Road** – we received Upper Pottsgrove's response to the cost sharing agreement and it doesn't look like any further discussions or revisions will be required by either Township's Solicitors. We are now in the process of finalizing the Grant package to MCCD, in the hopes of receiving a Low Volume Road Grant.

Mr. Hutt also reported on **Murgia Park Phase 3**; a Wetlands Report has been submitted to the Township and an updated location plan will be provided upon completion. The survey crew is currently in the process of completing the location of the wetlands and obtaining topographic information needed to move forward with a sketch plan for Phase 3.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DVRPC Traffic Studies**

Mr. Hutt commented; I was informed by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission that traffic studies will be conducted along Grosstown Road, at the intersections of High and Rice Streets, as well as Grosstown Road; between Old Reading Pike and High Street. These will be done using rubber tubes across the road. I asked for clarification on the time frame, which they told me will be in the coming weeks. They claim that COVID pushed everything back and they are unable to give a refined window. It could possibly not occur for a few months. Commissioner Valentine questioned the intersection of High and Rice Streets. Mr. Hutt apologized, noting; Grosstown Road, at the High Street intersection of High and Rice Street intersection.

**Grosstown Road Bridge Dedication**

Mr. Hutt stated; we are looking to dedicate the Grosstown Road Bridge in honor of Roger Villano. Mr. Villano was hired as the Township Manager in West Pottsgrove, on January 1, 1983 and held the position until he retired on August 10, 2004. Mr. Villano was responsible for primarily getting Waste Management and the Landfill in here and subsequently; many great things that affected the Township. Vice President Palladino noted; he was also involved in the new bridge.

A motion by Vice President Palladino, seconded by Commissioner Green to approve the dedication of the Grosstown Road Bridge in honor of Roger Villano. Roll Call: Palladino; yes, Valentine; yes, Green; yes, La Rosa; yes, Miller; yes.

**West Pottsgrove Police Department**

Mr. Hutt reported; on Monday, April 19, **Corporal, Brian Cass** handed in his resignation; effective April 30. We thank him for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors.

**SafeCity Solutions**, our consulting team that is helping us find our next Chief of Police; we will be meeting with them at the conclusion of tonight's meeting to discuss our next step in this process. We are extremely happy with the quality of applicants remaining and remain optimistic we will get this done in a timely manner.

Mr. Hutt reported; an **entry-level Police Officer, full-time exam** will be administered. About a month ago, the Board directed myself to begin the process of assembling the necessary information to advertise for a Police exam for an entry-level full-time Officer. In consultation with the PA Chief's Association and the proper individual who runs the PD portion, I feel confident this will be advertised in the beginning of May.

President Miller stated; we knew we needed to do a Civil Service test a little over a year ago because we had not, noting; they are good for three years. President Miller read from an internal memo, dated February 13, 2020; I directed through the Board, a memo that read to Chief Stofflet: the Board of Commissioners is directing you to prepare and administer an Entrance Exam for the position of Police Officer. A request was made to the Civil Service Commission to authorize the test. The Commission approved the request from the Board. You will compile all of the information pertaining to the test and forward it in writing; to the Police Commissioner. The Police Commissioner will review it with the Board of Commissioners and the Civil Service Commission, for final approval. After the test is given, completed and approved, a list will be made of candidates and kept on file. You will have 30 days from the date on this memo to have all of the information forwarded to the Police Commissioner. That was dated February 13, 2020. The problem was; that was never carried out and there were several discussions with myself, the Board and with the Chief, to see what direction we wanted to take it. Whether it was going to be multiple towns on one test, or just West Pottsgrove administering the test. Needless to say; that was over a year ago. Had that been done, we would not have had to apply now for a test which through the Township Manager; we will do and advertise it as soon as possible. That would have already been in place and we would've had the list to work off of. Mr. Miller stated; it's not just been decided now to do it; it was decided over a year ago and just never done by the Police Department, adding; I just want to clarify that for everyone that's sitting out there.

Also, to clarify some things; it's come to our attention through different sources, that we are looking at taking Officers from the Police Department or bring in the State Police versus the Police Department. I would like to read a memo to you, so you can see the timeline and what our intentions were and currently are. Sometime last year, we had a Police Officer leave on his own accord, which put the Department one short. In addition to that, we had an Officer that had a medical issue and was out for a subsequent length of time. So, the Chief, Matt Stofflet at the time; approached the Board and myself, to hire a full-time Officer; which would have required that Civil Service test that we just talked about. We met with him and this was the internal memo that went to him from me, from the Board; To Chief Stofflet, dated February 20, 2020; the Board of Commissioners has listened to you regarding the hiring of another full-time Police Officer. During your presentations with the Board, you have outlined your concerns with the hiring of a part-time Police Officer versus a full-time Police Officer. You have also asked the Board for direction on the hiring and scheduling of the Officers. We appreciate your concerns; however, as stated to you in prior discussions on this topic; the Board is directing you to hire part-time Officers at this time. We are not, and I say this again; we are not eliminating the full-time Officer position, but at this time, we want to hire part-time Officers. We have also indicated you can hire a part-time Officer and have that individual work full-time hours until the Officer that is out on medical leave returns. This would be temporary; with no benefits, and would return to part-time status once the Officer returns from medical leave. We have also stated at this time, you can schedule the Officers anyway that meets the department needs. Mr. Miller asked why is this important; it goes to show, contrary to what's being said; even during that time we did not make any moves to eliminate the full-time Officer. Instead, because of finances and the fact it's more economic to hire a part-time Officer than a full-time Officer at this time; we told him to go ahead and hire a part-time Officer. So, you've got the coverage on the streets, but we don't have to incur the cost and pass it on to the tax payers. You still have the same service prior too.

Mr. Miller stated; that was the directive, and speaking for the Board; if we had intentions to dismantle this Police Department; we would have removed the full-time position. We did not. In fact, we asked a week earlier for him to put together a Civil Service Exam so that we would have it in lieu of hiring and needing to test; which was never done. Mr. Miller continued; we hired an outside agency to make it fair and unbiased to hire a Chief of Police, replacing the one we had. If we had any inclination to dismantle the Police Department and bring in State Police, as it's being said; why would we go and spend all of this money to hire an outside agency to hire and get the best Chief of Police possible. And, why would we tell our Township Manager a year later, because it wasn't done a year ago; that we need a Civil Service Exam so we have one on file. Mr. Miller added; so, that is the truth. Anything anyone has heard subsequent to this; these are the facts.

Mr. Hutt commented; recently I have fielded a lot of inquiries from our residents regarding what's rumored to be defunding our PD, and mostly a surge in crime in the Township. I have prepared a little presentation regarding just that and will share it with you. Mr. Hutt reported; when preparing last year's budget, I began compiling statistics to analyze our PD's calls, crime and arrest statistics. We, meaning myself and the Board, felt it necessary to completely understand our needs as it relates to budget allocation. Allow me to say, that a lot of people have brought up national statistics and even County statistics during this conversation. Quite frankly, national statistics and even County statistics don't carry much weight with this. We are concerned with the Township and the actual stats provided by our PD. Mr. Hutt referred to his Call Volume and Arrests Chart, commenting; you can see in our Call Log analysis that the peak occurred in 2018 and has been falling drastically since. We experienced our low within this study last year, with 4,407 calls. I would like to clarify calls, because it can be misleading to anyone who isn't familiar with the process. Last month's submitted PD report had a total of 446 calls for March. Eighty-five of those calls were for security checks and 56 were for supplements. Security checks could mean the Officer drove by to look at something and didn't even get out of the vehicle. Supplements could mean someone called to change the date of something on a report. Every single call that comes in is logged. I just don't want the residents to believe the cars are screaming out of the station 446 times in a month; because that isn't true. I am sure it happens from time to time, but overall; it's not true. The Arrests Log show a much steeper decline, last year the amount was cut in half. I have no doubt COVID had some role in this, but I can assure you crime did not stop during that period. I will have more information on specific arrests later in the presentation, and what types of arrests are dropping or staying level. Mr. Hutt then referred to his chart of Arrest Statistics, noting; this is just a quick look at arrests; adult, juvenile, and citations. This chart is particularly useful to our residents. It shows each category and how they are tracked, ranging from assault, harassment, robbery and theft. One item that jumped out was; in 2020, the complete absence of retail theft arrests during COVID. It strikes me that during COVID, there was no retail theft at all, or was just not reported by the stores because they didn't want the hassle and deal with the paperwork. Make no mistake about it; I am thrilled with these results, assaults are very low, drug arrests are also low. I would be curious to know the type of drug arrests. My guess would be smaller offenses or else the County Detectives would become involved. Harassment and disorderly conduct remain two of the Township's highest arrest stats. From what I have learned in consulting with other municipalities, those two categories were high during COVID across the board. Again, if residents are concerned, these stats are readily available through a Right-to Know Request. I want all of our residents to have this information because it might not be conveyed as other information is in the Township.

Mr. Hutt next touched on the 2021 PD Budget; the Police budget is at \$1,275,149.47. Echoing what Mr. Miller said; despite what anyone believes, we have seven full-time Officers; including the Chief. We are in the process of hiring a new Chief and plan on finalizing that in the coming months. We recently had an Officer resign and are in the process of getting a test and list together for replacing him. Until that time, we have five part-time Officers to help ease the burden of shift coverage. Salaries and benefits alone for the PD make up 81% of their budget. I would suspect that percentage to rise next year given the contractual obligations. Mr. Hutt continued; you need to weigh wants versus needs. Yes, it's a fact that you would feel much safer with a cop on every corner. However, it needs to be viewed as a want versus need, especially with the Township's financial situation such as we are in. Taking into account our call volume, crime rate and arrests as I previously discussed, we are trending down in all of these categories. Also, look at the type of arrests; violent crime is not surging, certainly not so much to bloat our workforce and incur that cost. A major consideration has to be the cost of the department. It needs to be heavily considered when looking at the Township's needs. If arrests and overall crime are down, it doesn't make sense to allocate more money for Officers which have their entire families covered on our insurance plan, pension benefits and anything else that goes along with that. These decisions have a massive impact on taxes. With Police contracts, it isn't necessarily the first two years of their employment that takes its toll on the budget, but later on when they get to the top of the pay scale. In our case, that would be five years. Looking at our 2020 Budget for the PD and the amount of calls, we are looking at an average of \$300.50 per call that comes into the station. Mr. Hutt then addressed taxes noting; we are currently at 3 MLS, borrowing over \$1.1 million to balance our budget. Simply put; the revenue stream is not remotely close to what it was when the landfill was in business. In order to not overload the residents with massive tax increases, we are forced to tap into the Reserves. We have been doing a better job of that, but still have to do so. Now, if we did not go into our Reserves, we would have to triple our current millage rate. We have an older community on fixed incomes, and forcing those people to pay triple is a big ask. Long-term, it is not a viable option to keep throwing increases at residents. We need to be fiscally responsible as we have been, and look at where our money is allocated as it is needed. As I previously stated, West Pottsgrove is not a young community. Almost 15% is 65 and older, with 10% of all residents in poverty. We do not have 4,000 residents. That along with our size also needs to be factored in our Police force. Infrastructure remains a priority. We are working diligently to fix our sewer system and roads. We understand these projects cannot get done fast enough, however, the fact remains; we are addressing our biggest need. Mr. Hutt stated; I hope this presentation has provided more insight to the concerns I am hearing about the myth of defunding our Police Department and what our actual Police statistics are and how they are trending. As always, I am always available to discuss things further.

Mr. Miller stated; and again, on behalf of the Board we want to thank the Police Department, because crime rate statistically is going down; and that's from them reporting it. These are not made up statistics, they are not opinion statistics; these are real. We are not looking at getting rid of the Police Department; we know we need one, we are all residents here, and we try to give you the best service we can either through full-time or part-time Officers; to save money. That way we don't have to necessarily raise taxes and burden anyone. I want to clear up any rumors about that. As I said; had the former Chief given us a Civil Service Exam a year ago, we would not have to go through that process now. Commissioner Green commented; I've been on the Board 3 years and I've been trying to get through to the Police Department and the residents that we are not the Township we used to be; we don't have millions in the bank, we don't have millions coming in like we used to.

It's getting harder and harder to get companies to come in and we're trying to bring in more revenue. What people don't realize is; if we keep hitting our budget every year for close to a million and a half dollars; in the next five or six years we will go bankrupt, we won't have a Township. The Police Officers won't have jobs. Basically, you have to work with us. If you want more Officers; put them on, but in about five years, guess what; you will have to look for other jobs, because we won't be able to pay you. These are the facts and I can show you; we've got the program that lays it all out. The money is not there people. Previous Boards decided to put it in other places and spend it in other ways, which we don't understand why; but it's just not there. Commissioner Green noted; we are trying to get more money into the Township, but it's not easy. We don't have the ability, the land or the dump anymore. We are doing what we can with the budget we have. That's why we did the sewer project with a 25-year loan, so it wouldn't hit the residents taxes. We can slowly pay each year for 25 years, with the money we have in the budget. It will also go on to some of the newer residents; they will help pay for something they will benefit from mostly. The older folks may see a few years out of it, but some of us won't see 25 years out of it, and the newer residents will and should help pay, that's why we got the loan; to help pay over time. Hitting the budget puts us in even worse shape. We are looking at different ways and we have to be really careful and watch everything we spend. We are not trying to cut the Police Department, we like the Police Department and we like the coverage we have, but we have to look at where we are and who we are. We can't be Limerick or some of the bigger departments, spending money on multiple vehicles; we have the force that can handle the work. We have to be able to work with them and they've got to be able to work with us to keep the cost down; that's the issue. President Miller stated; to tie in with Commissioner Green; everyone would like another fleet of patrol vehicles and another 10 full-time Police Officers, but the question is who is going to pay for it. If you are not fiscally responsible; in 5 to 6 years, and this is from an independent auditor who just did the audit; there will be no money left. You just can't spend, spend, spend; there's just not that kind of money. It will be dried up sooner than you believe. Commissioner Green stated; the same comment we get every year from the auditors is; you have got to stop hitting your Reserves.

**West End Fire Company**

Mr. Hutt reported; recently the Fire Chief of West End has requested some information to begin processing a Grant Application for new radios. There was also discussion about the Township pitching in for this in some way. We are currently vetting out the need for such, being that the Township purchased 15 new radios for the company in 2017. County has provided me a list of radios, and records show their inventory at 19 for portable radios. We are trying to vet out; is this needed? Is it mobile, is it portable? Much like the Police Department, there has been much discussion within the Township about defunding or going with another municipality for fire service protection. I will turn it back over to our President to read a statement about the state of West End.

President Miller reported; this is to clarify as to what we're getting as feedback. These are again, true facts and we can back these up. In November of 2020, the Board of Commissioners authorized our Township Manager; Scott Hutt, to engage the Borough of Pottstown with regards to Mutual Aid Fire Assistance. Since that time, we have had further discussions about possible full-time coverage for West Pottsgrove Township. To clarify; this request was made after long consideration to the circumstances surrounding West End. The circumstances being their leadership board and roster personnel. To the dismay of the Board, West End has had a lack of accountability for some time; leading to theft within their own ranks and overall lack of checks and balances to ensure this type of activity would not occur. So much so, which has caused the IRS to threaten action. In 2017, local surrounding municipalities banned together for a Grant to secure Air Packs.

Due to West Ends problems with the IRS; this Grant was lost. Not just for West End, but for all municipalities involved. At that time, the Board of Commissioners stepped in and purchased these Air Packs for the West End Fire Company, with the agreement that West End pay them back in accordance with an agreed upon payment plan. The IRS issue has yet to be resolved and as of today; a lien in the amount of \$24,217.89 still exists on this property. Their leadership continues to be a revolving door. In this calendar year, they are on their second Fire Chief and fourth company President. The lack of stability makes it difficult for the Township to have faith in their ability to function properly as a company and provide the necessary services to it's Township's residents. Mr. Miller continued; multiple meetings were held between Fire Company leadership, the Board of Commissioners and our Township Manager. The intent of these meetings was to help get the company on the right path, concessions on debts owed and helping to ease their burden. However, after every meeting, we seem to find ourselves in exactly the same place; new leadership and a hostile attitude towards the Township, the Commissioners and the Township Manager that are up here now. After multiple conversations with the company members regarding mold in the basement, the Township felt it necessary to have a professional inspection company investigate it. On December 15, 2020, Armored Home Inspection conducted a mold investigation. Their findings were as follows; a qualified mold remediation company is recommended to evaluate the lab results and conduct mold remediation within the building to render the spore count back in balance with the outdoor air and to remove the presence of stachybotrus/memnoniella. Follow up clear assessing after the remediation is performed, is advised. A history of mold infiltration was noted in the basement area and a lack of ventilation or dehumidification was noted. Moisture is the most important factor affecting mold spore counts in structures. Preventing more infiltration in the basement is recommended, in addition to increased ventilation. It is recommended to cover the outdoor window wells to aid in water penetration control and to run a dehumidifier in the basement area. Remediation will likely involve removal of the contaminated contents in the basement. The following week, Joe Chrisman, which is our Building Code Official from West Pottsgrove Township, was called in to inspect the building given the mold report findings. Multiple issues were identified, ranging from the aforementioned mold, exposed wiring and HVAC deficiencies. On December 23, 2020, West End was issued a letter detailing the mold inspector and Building Code Inspectors findings. The basement was condemned; posted as such and the doors were locked by padlock. Since that time, multiple locks have been cut off by the company members and a pattern of blatant disregard for the posted notices displayed. The Township pays the company's Workman's Comp and we are greatly concerned with their willful disregard of the health issues in that area. West End has again defaulted on the Air Pack repayment plan since it was revised on February 16, 2021. At that meeting, they were advised that funds given by the Township were to be used in paying off the IRS lien, mold remediation and building maintenance; specifically the water and HVAC issues. To this date, no progress has been made on any of these issues. Due to these issues, the Board felt it necessary to ensure the residents of West Pottsgrove have reliable fire protection service. Relating to the residents concern about defunding the Fire Company; that could be no further from the truth. The Township continues to pay for their Workman's Comp, the gasoline for all of their engines and related vehicle, as well as vehicle insurance and liability. We paid for their Air Packs and purchased radios that cost the Township \$50,000. The Fire Company was directed to begin fundraising to help ease the burden of the Township and ultimately it's residents, putting money aside in our budget and we have agreed to match whatever funds came in resulting from legitimate fundraising. To this date ladies and gentlemen; they have not put in any requests for any fundraisers for any match, and yet we offered. As far as the concerns of adequate fire protection coming from the Borough, as opposed to the fire station in the Township; I will turn it back over to the Township Manager.

Mr. Hutt stated; since the moment we reached out to the Borough of Pottstown for Mutual Aid, we have been monitoring County reports on fire calls in West Pottsgrove Township. These reports detail the time dispatch sent the calls out, response and arrival times of each responding company. In that time, we have had 28 incidents where the Borough of Pottstown and West End were called to respond. Seven of those 28, West End never responded to; putting the burden on the Borough of Pottstown. The two times West End responded faster were fire alarm calls. The Borough responded faster for every building fire, electrical fire and vehicle accident, with injuries. Of the remaining 21 calls the Borough of Pottstown responded faster 19 times, and on an average, the Borough responded faster by 3 minutes and 9 seconds per call. Mr. Hutt noted; I hope these statistics answer and ease any residents concerns regarding fire protection services from a neighboring municipality. As far as rumors that your homeowners insurance would increase if we went with another outlet; they are false. The specific company that provides service to our residents has no impact to their individual policies. President Miller commented; to sum it up again, like with the Police Department; we are not looking to do away with fire protection in West Pottsgrove, we are looking to make sure that you get that fire protection. That the IRS does not padlock their doors and they cannot respond to a fire call. We do still give them money, or they could not operate. All of that information you are hearing out there is absolutely false. The Township Manager gave you real statistics; these are not word of mouth or opinions, its real information.

**Pottstown Borough Authority – Reverse 911 System**

Mr. Hutt reported; during the water main break in March, there were many issues discovered with the Reverse 911 System. Our Township felt those impacts, with residents saying they were never notified by the provider. The Authority is in discussions to streamline that system. Items such as allowing these calls to get pushed out to cell phones, not just landlines. I am in communication with Borough Authority Manager; Justin Keller, regarding this issue. He will provide me with this information when available so I can push it out to our residents. The Borough Authority will also be sending mailed notifications regarding the same.

**Primary Election – May 18, 2021**

Mr. Hutt noted; the poll will again, be at the Township building. The County has already advised when the equipment will be dropped off and picked up. I ask the residents to be aware; we are still doing construction on our sanitary sewer system and some of the parking lot will most likely be unavailable due to the contractor's equipment being staged there. Please plan accordingly. Also, a secure drop-box location can be found at the Montgomery County Community College in Pottstown. It is open 24-hours a day; beginning 10 a.m. May 1, up until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

**727 Glasgow Street – Handicap Parking Request**

Mr. Hutt commented; one of our residents at this location has petitioned for a handicap parking space. They have submitted the proper documents and our PD has vetted the request to ensure this would not be a public safety issue.

A motion by Vice President Palladino, seconded by Commissioner Green to approve a handicap parking spot at 727 Glasgow Street. Roll Call: Palladino; yes, Valentine; yes, Green; yes, La Rosa; yes, Miller; yes.

**Roberts Drive – No Outlet Sign**

Mr. Hutt reported; a few residents on Roberts Drive have brought to our attention it is being used as a turnaround. They are requesting to have a “No Outlet” sign posted, to give the proper notification to motorists.

A motion by Commissioner Green, seconded by Commissioner La Rosa approving a “No Outlet” sign be posted at Roberts Drive. Roll Call: Palladino; yes, Valentine; yes, Green; yes, La Rosa, Miller; yes.

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS**

***Dennis Arms – 324 E Race Street, Stowe, PA*** – thanked the Commissioners and Township Manager for the open communication that he has heard in the Township. Mr. Arms also thanked the Road Crew, or whoever is responsible; for cleaning up the Howard Street Park. Every time I walk by with the dogs, the trashcan is always empty and the park is clean. It is appreciated.

***Josh Dewalt – 27 Berks Street, Stowe*** – stated all of the statistics from the Police Department with regards to crime, is really appreciated. I have seen a lot of talk about the rise in crime rate and other hearsay; so it was good to physically see stats and to know the general public has access to these statistics if they want. Mr. Dewalt also asked, with regards to the Fire Company; why don’t they do fundraising? He noted; they are the only firehouse that does not do fundraising, adding; any other County their firehouses do a lot, can anyone explain this. Mr. Hutt stated; fact is, I do not know. We have brought it up many times. I do understand it takes a good amount of effort, but it’s a good way to have a self-sustaining fire company and builds a really good relation with the Township and residents themselves. President Miller commented; when we had a meeting with the Fire Company, we asked why they do not send out mailers for donations anymore. Their response was; they didn’t have the money for the stamps to mail them. The current Board sitting here now responded; if that is the only reason you are not mailing them, give them to us and we will pay for the stamps. Mr. Miller continued; as of this date, we have not seen one mailer come in to mail, and that was months ago. They have had plenty of opportunity to get that done; with us footing the bill. They keep saying we are not paying for anything, with regards to the fire company, but we keep offering to do things, and they don’t take us up on it. Mr. Dewalt stated; it’s like they want the Grants, but don’t want to do anything about it. Commissioner La Rosa added; to piggyback what Steve said; talking about the mailings; the last meeting we had with the Fire Company, I come from a marketing background and offered that I would write it for them, giving them my phone and cell phone number, and no one contacted me.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

Commissioner Valentine noted; I noticed there are a lot of trashcans out in the street. Maybe we should contact Waste Management, because they weren’t there when I went to work and I saw a lot laying in the streets; they should put them back on the sidewalks. Commissioner Green commented; I think the winds today had a lot to do with that. Commissioner Valentine stated; I’ve noticed this for the past few weeks though.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Commissioner Green, seconded by Commissioner Valentine to adjourn the Workshop Meeting and head into an Executive Session; with no decisions made. That being said; when we adjourn, we will need the Meeting Room for the Exec Session. I thank you, as does the Board, for those that are online and those took the time to come out. Mr. Miller added; please, if you're out there and you hear something, don't take it as true, it may not be. We have the numbers and statistics and can back it up. It's public information, so contact us. Roll Call: Palladino; yes, Valentine; yes, Green; yes, La Rosa; yes, Miller; yes. The Workshop Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

*Respectfully Yours,*

*Joanne Herb  
Township Secretary*