

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BUSINESS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2024, in Freedom Hall, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Bill Jenaway, Tina Garzillo, Carole Kenney and Greg Waks. Also, present was Anthony Hamaday, Township Manager; Amanda Lafty, Assistant Township Manager; John Walko, Esq., Solicitor's Office and Leanna Colubriale, RVE Township Engineer.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Chairperson Garzillo said there was an Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss real estate matters. Then she mentioned the passing of Pastor George Searfoss saying the Upper Merion community suffered a big loss with today. He will be known for his compassion, generosity and for serving our community, he will be greatly missed.

Chairperson Garzillo also talked about the deer management program, the Township adopted which will start on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The program is through Chester Valley Deer Management Association and involves limited and control bow hunting on certain parcels throughout the township that are owned by the Township. Residents within 500 feet of Township owned property will receive letters explaining the parameters of the program. Hunting will take place only during hunting season and this is not open to the public. After receiving complaints from residents regarding deer related incidents, the Township researched several options to assist in reaching a stable deer population. More information can be found on the township website under the environment tab, Deer Management page.

CITIZEN BOARD VACANCIES:

Chairperson Garzillo gave an update on current Citizen Board vacancies.

CC Advisory Board	- 1 Vacancy
CC Advisory Board Young Adult	- 1 Vacancy
Economic Comm Dev Committee	- 2 Vacancy
ECDC Board Young Adult Mem.	- 1 Vacancy
Farmers Market Young Adult	- 1 Vacancy
Human Relations Commission	- 1 (Alternates)
Media Advisory Board Young Adult	- 1 Vacancy
Public Safety Board Young Adult	- 1 Vacancy
UM Foundation Sub-Committee	- 1 Vacancy
Upper Merion Historical Commission	- 1 Vacancies
UM Historical Comm. Young Adult	- 1 Vacancy
Zoning Hearing Board	- 1 Vacancy (Alternate)

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CONSENT AGENDA re:

1. Presentation and acceptance of the Township's 2025 Financial Requirements and Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of \$2,500,582 for the Police and \$759,840 for the Non-Uniform Pension Plans.
2. Brownlie Road Culvert Replacement Project: Approval of Payment Application No. 2 in the amount of \$93,263.40 to G&B Construction Group, Inc. Feasterville-Trevese, Pennsylvania for contract services performed to date, as recommended by ARRO Consulting, Inc.
3. Brownlie Road Culvert Replacement Project: Approval of Payment Application No. 3 in the amount of \$149,382.00 to G&B Construction Group, Inc. of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for contract services completed to date, as recommended by ARRO Consulting, Inc.
4. Public Safety Capital Equipment Purchase – Authorization to purchase the following through any State/Costars or Cooperative Program:
  1. 2024 Ford F350 Emergency Services vehicle & fit out - \$78,228.06
  2. 2024 Polaris UTV w/rescue equipment & water tank - \$56,447.73
  3. Homaltro Pentheon Rescue System Tools - \$16,910.00
5. Financial Escrow Security Release No. 4 – Stonebrook at Upper Merion Phase 3 - Approval of Escrow Release No.4 in the amount of \$323,536.00 for the completion of required site improvements to date as part of the Land Development project as recommended by the Township Engineer.
6. Financial Escrow Release No. 1 - Mancill Mill Road Company. Approval of escrow release No. 1 in the amount of \$1,172,512.50 for the completion of required site improvements to date as part of the land development project as recommended by the Township engineer.
7. Approval to provide reimbursement to the King of Prussia District (BID) with funds from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant for the First Avenue Linear Park Project up to \$1,000,000.
8. Fire Department/EMS Fleet Evaluation - Approval of proposal from Emergency Vehicle Response to study the Fire/EMS apparatus and equipment in the amount of \$24,800.00.
9. Vehicle Camera Contract - Verizon Connect – Approval of a contract with Verizon Connect for the installation of vehicle dash cams and monthly service in 12 Fire/EMS vehicles at a monthly cost of \$632.40.
10. Balligomingo PS & Trout Run WPCC Pump Replacement Project: Award of the General Contract to DESCOCO Design & Construction, Inc. of Lancaster, PA in the amount of \$671,903.00 and award of the Electrical Contract to Brendon

Stanton, Inc. of Montgomeryville, PA in the amount of \$84,100.00, as recommended by the Project Consultant.

11. First Avenue Linear Park Phase 2 Project: Approval of Invoice No. 18 in the amount of \$962.22 to RK&K, LLP of King of Prussia, PA for construction inspection services performed to date, as recommended by the Director of Public Works.
12. Family Entertainment/Sport Venue Study - Approval of proposal from Ewing Cole for a family entertainment/sporting event venue study within the Township in the amount of \$46,200 utilizing General Fund Reserve funds.
13. Resolution 2024-30 – Disposition of Township Police Records. Authorization to dispose of Township Police Records as described in said resolution in accordance with the PA Municipal Records Act.
14. Citizen Board Appointment – Community Center Complex Advisory Board Young Adult member, Sydney Marchese.

Public Comments: None

Board Action:

It was moved by Supervisor Kenney, seconded by Supervisor Philips, all voting "Aye" to approve the Consent Agenda. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

#### ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL:

Board Action:

It was moved by Supervisor Waks, seconded by Supervisor Kenney, all voting "Aye" to approve the Accounts Payables for invoices processed from August 1, 2024 to September 4, 2024 and Payrolls dated August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of 2024 for a total of \$7,836,042.49. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

#### ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Vice-Chair Jenaway mentioned over the past few weeks the Board had the opportunity to participate in some state conversations about Economic Development along with approximately 25 Township Officials from around the State, PSATS and DCED. The discussions centered on the desired economic development aspect in the 6 regions of Pennsylvania and said there are grant programs and initiatives that the State is working towards to enhance the economic opportunity within these regions. He said Upper Merion has to stay informed to when these grants will be available and how the other 5 regions will be getting initiatives for and how we can parley into that to benefit us as well.

Next, Vice-Chair Jenaway said on September 11<sup>th</sup> he along with 15 other people from all over Pennsylvania representing their municipalities in excess of 10,000 population with Upper Merion and about 3 other municipalities having over 35,000 in population met to discuss land use. There are proposals in both the House and the Senate to take away local control of determining zoning of residential properties. This brings major concerns to all the municipalities that the State Officials are not listening to the locals on what the impacts are, also there is a Federal initiative in this as well. He feels this will not benefit Upper Merion Township.

Then, Vice-Chair Jenaway spoke about warehousing and how we are ahead of other municipalities because we already zoned areas for warehouses. He mentioned Upper Merion has been proactive in redefining our zoning districts over the past few years on what can and can't go in certain districts and what's compatible between districts. Also, another item they talked about is Public Safety in which Upper Merion already addressed in our 5-year Comprehensive Plan.

Chairperson Garzillo mentioned Upper Merion has two Fall Festivals in October, the first one is the Annual Community Fair & Fall Fest at Heuser Park on October 5<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 4 pm. The other Fall Fest will be held at Nor-view Farm on the remaining Saturday's in October from 10 am until 6 pm on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Prices for children are \$12.00 and adults are \$7.00. If you come dressed as a farmer, cowboy or cowgirl you will receive \$2.00 off your admission. In addition, the Farmer's Market will be held on Friday nights during October from 6 pm until 10 pm at the Farm since both Fall Fests will be held on Saturdays.

Public Comments:

Resident Mr. Tim Hoover from 256 Anthony Road has lived in King of Prussia for 40 years and has always been involved in the community. He said his property backs up to Walker Field and the Mullen Track and was happy when Montgomery County Open Space purchased the Mullen Track 20 years ago so it couldn't be developed further. It's a nice piece of land with some baseball fields and a playground which is relatively quiet. His fear is by putting tennis/pickleball courts at this location it will change the character of the neighborhood. There will be additional noise from the pickleball, additional traffic going through the cul-de-sac and a loss of green buffer in the open space when you take away the forest for the tennis courts. He asked the Board who is responsible for the development of the plans because he hasn't been able to find any information on it and would like more information about the plans.

Chairperson Garzillo said this plan moved very quickly because the School District wanted to have Tennis Courts for the school season this year and the Board is trying to setup a joint meeting with the School District. She said the tennis courts will be located on the old Damiani site next to the Turnpike and there will be a walking pass for the students to come down from the school to access the courts. She also said there will be no lights and when the school is not using the courts they will be open for public use.

Supervisor Waks mentioned that the materials used for pickleball have become better made and they are not as noisy. Mr. Hoover said he would like the Board to plant some trees and bushes as a buffer to absorb any excess noise.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Vice-chair Jenaway, seconded by Supervisor Philips, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

  
ANTHONY HAMADAY  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

lr  
Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered: