

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MAY 16, 2013

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2013, in Freedom Hall, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Philips, Erika Spott (arrived a few minutes late), Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway and Carole Kenney. Also present were: David Kraynik, Township Manager; Joseph McGrory, Township Solicitor; Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mrs. Kenney, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to approve the March 14, 2013 Business Meeting Minutes and the April 11, 2013 Joint Meeting Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS:

Chairperson Waks stated an Executive Session was not held prior to this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION RE: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

The Board of Supervisors recognized the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, which is held in the township each year. The Board proclaimed May 17 and 18, 2013 as Relay for Life Days in Upper Merion Township. Mr. Philips presented the proclamation to Barbara Choc on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

PROCLAMATION RE: NATIONAL POLICE WEEK – MAY 12 THRU MAY 18, 2013

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Jenaway read and presented a proclamation proclaiming National Police Week – May 12 thru May 18, 2013 and May 15, 2013 as Peace Officers Memorial Day to Police Chief Tom Nolan.

POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION RE: OFFICER JONATHAN JIMENEZ

Police Chief Tom Nolan presented the Chief's Commendation to Traffic Safety Unit Officer Jonathan Jimenez, to recognize his special contributions to the Upper Merion Police Department. Officer Jimenez is a 4 ½ year veteran on the force and brought his very specialized skills in electronics, computers and radio systems to help improve the vital communication network within the township.

INTRODUCTION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

Police Chief Tom Nolan introduced the five members of the Police Chaplain Program who have recently completed orientation for this program. The Police Chaplain Program creates a voluntary partnership with faith based leaders of the community to assist police in special situations when tragedy strikes. The partnership also endeavors to help maintain strong community relations through the exchange of vital information that will help residents better

understand police practices and procedures. The new members are: Reverend Julie DeWerth, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Reverend Kathryn Eagles, Upper Merion Baptist Church; Father Martin Cioppi, Mother of Divine Providence Church; Rabbi Eric Lazar, Temple Brith Achim; and Pastor Roger Huffman, Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Budget Transfer re: Mancill Mill Salt Shed Wall Remediation - \$25,000.00
2. Equipment Replacement Request re: Safety & Code Department – body work to Chief Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector Vehicles to comply with newly adopted Township Policy - \$12,788.00
3. Citizen Board Resignation
  - a. Economic & Community Development Committee – Russell Swisher
  - b. Police Citizen Advisory Board – Allan Pomerantz
4. Citizen Board Appointment – Economic & Community Development Committee – Terrance Barclift
5. Appoint term lengths to Board of Community Assistance Members
  - a. Scott Milner’s term ends December 31, 2013
  - b. Robyn Briggs’ term ends December 31, 2014
  - c. Lydia Dan Sardinias’ term ends December 31, 2015
6. Permission to Advertise & Receive Bids re: 2013 – 2015 Janitorial Services Contract
7. Resolution 2013-16 re: Traffic Signal Resolution – Modifications to DeKalb Pike/Gulph Road signal plan, closure of driveway at Chili’s Restaurant

Public Comment:

Mr. Nick DeRosato asked for more information on item #2, and it was provided by the township manager.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Spott, all voting “Aye” to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

WAIVER OF FEES RE: KING OF PRUSSIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY - \$1,500 – COMMERCIAL APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE TO SIGN ORDINANCE

Board Comment:

Mr. Jenaway recused himself from any discussions and/or vote on this matter due to his role with the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company. The Memorandum of Voting Conflict will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Kenney, seconded by Mr. Philips, to approve the Waiver of Fees. Mr. Jenaway abstained. Motion approved 4-0-1.

RESOLUTION 2013-15 RE: GRANT APPLICATION – SCHUYLKILL RIVER WEST TRAIL (HEUSER PARK TO VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK)

Board Comment:

Chairperson Waks turned the meeting over to Vice Chairperson Spott and indicated as he has in the past he will continue to recuse himself from all discussions and/or votes on the proposed trail. He explained he has been recusing himself on this matter for the past year and a half because he was concerned about the perception of the Valley Forge Towers where he owns a condominium receiving a private benefit from the building of a spur from the Valley Forge Towers to the proposed trail. While technically not a conflict of interest according to Pennsylvania law, Mr. Waks emphasized how important it is to have a higher level of standard than just what the law mandates. He said avoiding a perception of a conflict of interest is just as important as avoiding a conflict of interest.

Mrs. Spott asked for a motion with regard to the grant application for the Schuylkill River West Trail.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Jenaway, seconded by Mr. Philips, to approve Resolution 2013-15 as submitted. Mr. Waks abstained. Motion approved 4-0-1.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to approve the Accounts Payable for invoices processed from April 6, 2013 to May 8, 2013 in the amount of \$566,796.24 and the Payroll for April 12, 2013 and April 26, 2013 in the amount of \$1,389,468.74 for a total of \$1,956,264.98. None opposed. Motion passed 5-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

SEPTA FARE INCREASE

Mr. Waks stated it has come to the Board's attention that SEPTA is proposing a fare hike. He said the Board of Supervisors is concerned that people who get on SEPTA in Upper Merion Township and also get off in Upper Merion Township will be charged the full fare rate as if they were getting on in Upper Merion Township and traveling into Philadelphia. Mr. Waks asked for a motion to authorize the Township Manager to send a letter to SEPTA opposing this fare hike.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Spott, all voting "Aye" to authorize the Township Manager to send a letter to SEPTA as outlined by the Chairperson. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

FIRE COMPANY AND LAFAYETTE AMBULANCE EVENTS

Mrs. Spott provided details on the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company Comedy Night to be held on Saturday evening, May 18, 2013. She also noted th

at National EMS Week is from May 19 to May 25, 2013 and this year's theme is "EMS One Mission – One Team" with a special exhibit and presentations by Lafayette Ambulance to be held at the King of Prussia Mall. Mrs. Spott also noted an additional opportunity will be provided citizens to interact with the ambulance corps at an upcoming Farmers Market.

#### FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATIONAL TIP

Mrs. Spott reminded the community of the significance of receiving CPR and First Aid training and provided details on registration for CPR and/or First Aid Classes.

#### MEMORIAL DAY FIREWORKS

Mr. Jenaway cautioned residents about fireworks safety for Memorial Day as it is a challenging time for many individuals who are improperly using fireworks.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS (PSATS)

Mr. Jenaway reported on the Board of Supervisors' participation in the PSATS Conference which was held last month. He said an important aspect of the conference was the opportunity to learn about new regulations, particularly related to stormwater, road improvement issues, the highway tax issues and the issues other officials face throughout Pennsylvania. Mr. Jenaway pointed out that the information exchange was extremely beneficial in order to better serve the township.

#### FARMERS MARKET

Mrs. Kenney encouraged citizens to attend the Farmers Market grand reopening on Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

#### TRICENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER

Mrs. Kenney provided the details of the Tricentennial Fundraiser sponsored by Gateway Café.

#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT PSATS

Mrs. Kenney noted Mr. Jenaway was a presenter at the recent PSATS Conference at five different sessions and indicated how well regarded and recognized he is by his peers at PSATS. She noted the advantage of having the opportunity to network with the township managers and other township supervisors to share ideas and learn how townships are dealing with stormwater management and with many other issues of mutual interest.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. Philips stated each May, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to shine a light on the experiences of more than 380,000 children and youth under the age of 18 in the foster care system. More information will be provided on UMGA-TV for interested residents.

#### UPPER MERON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT – GIRLS ON THE RUN

Mr. Philips provided information on the "Girls on the Run" 5K run/walk to be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## ACTIVE DUTY ASSIGNMENT

Mr. Philips expressed appreciation to everyone who sent their well wishes during the two and a half weeks he spent on active duty in service to our country.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN TOWNSHIP

Mr. Waks announced a number of additional Township meetings and events.

### From the Public:

Mr. Nick DeRosato followed up on the Swedesburg Park lighting issue raised at a previous discussion, and it was explained that the lighting matter is still being studied by the Park and Recreation Board and will work its way through the process.

Mr. DeRosato commented that he attended a Park and Recreation Board meeting recently and it was very helpful in hearing the feedback of residents.

Mr. Waks encouraged all residents to attend not only the Board of Supervisors meetings, but any citizen board meeting that would be of interest to them.

## ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Philips, seconded by Mrs. Kenney, all voting "Aye" to adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0. Adjournment occurred at 8:11 p.m.

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DAVID G. KRAYNIK  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered