

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 7, 2011

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2011, in Freedom Hall, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:59 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Joseph Bartlett, Edward McBride, and Erika Spott. Also present were: Ron Wagenmann, Township Manager; Joseph Pizonka, Township Solicitor, Russ Benner, Township Engineer, Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager and Angela Caramenico, Assistant to Township Manager. Supervisor Jenaway was absent.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Waks, all voting "Aye" to approve the February 17, 2011 Business Meeting (corrected minutes), the March 10, 2011 Workshop Meeting Minutes, the March 22, 2011 Special Bid Meeting -1 Minutes and the March 22, 2011 Special Bid Meeting – 2 Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chairman McBride reported that Mr. Jenaway was away on a business trip to Washington, D.C. Also there was an executive session dealing with legal and personnel matters. He commented on the savings achieved by LED lighting and other energy/cost saving measures. Chairman McBride noted the Township has received an Air Quality Partnership Award from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. He also complimented staff on their close monitoring of the budget which resulted in a 2010 surplus.

NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION RE: AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

On behalf of the Upper Merion Board of Supervisors, Mr. Bartlett read and presented a proclamation regarding Autism Awareness Month to Patti Erickson, President of the Autism Society, Greater Philadelphia Chapter. Mrs. Erickson expressed her appreciation for the continued support of Upper Merion Township in proclaiming April as Autism Awareness Month and highlighting the growing need for concern and awareness about autism. She noted the increasing autism statistics and stated that awareness ribbons will be available in the library all month.

Mr. McBride asked Mrs. Erickson to comment on the recent event coordinated by Variety Club. Mrs. Erickson discussed the various aspects of the Autism Walk for awareness which was held at the Plymouth Meeting Mall.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Permission to Advertise & Receive Bids: Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning Service Contract
2. Bid Recommendations re:
 - a. One (1) New Tub Grinder – Equipment Replacement #2011-1
Gran Turk, Inc. - \$372,636.00

b. Park Maintenance Contracts

3. Equipment Replacement Request re: Maintenance Repairs - \$18,000
4. Memorandum of Understanding with UMASD – Sheltering & Mass Care Facilities
5. Henderson Square – Deed of Temporary Construction and Access Easement and Required Sanitary Sewer Easement
6. Resignation re: Jaquelin Camp from the EAC
7. Appointment re: Jaquelin Camp to the Planning Commission

Board Comment:

Mrs. Spott asked for clarification regarding the inclusion of the Belmont School among the facilities to receive HVAC service and Mr. Wagenmann explained that Park and Recreation programs are held at the school.

For the benefit of interested residents, Mrs. Spott stated that the township's insurance carrier will cover a portion of the \$372,636 for the new tub grinder since it was damaged in a fire and Mr. Wagenmann provided additional details.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Spott, seconded by Mr. Waks, all voting "Aye" to approve the consent agenda as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

TRAIL EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP

Mr. Wagenmann stated this is an agreement for the extension of the Chester Valley Trail into Upper Merion. He noted that the Board of Supervisors approved the previous trail easement agreement and this is an amendment to that agreement. Mr. Wagenmann explained that once the trail comes into Upper Merion part of the trail will be installed underneath South Warner Road and eventually connect up with the section of the trail that was constructed as a part of Section 400 of Route 202.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Waks, seconded by Mrs. Spott, all voting "Aye" to approve the trail easement agreement. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

2011 & 2012 CONCERT UNDER THE STARS TITLE SPONSOR AGREEMENT

Mr. Wagenmann stated that Bottom Dollar Food has come forward and is willing to be a sponsor for Concerts Under the Stars Program. He explained this is an agreement for 2011 and 2012 between the Township and Bottom Dollar Food Northeast LLC.

Mr. Bartlett asked if this would restrict the Park and Recreation Department in any way. Mr. Wagenmann responded in the negative and explained this simply means that this sponsor will get the title the "Bottom Dollar Upper Merion Concerts Under the Stars."

Board Action:

It was moved by Mrs. Spott, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, all voting “Aye” to approve the sponsor agreement. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

Board Comment:

Mr. McBride commented that it is encouraging to have a new business in the Township stepping up to support the activities of the township.

ADDENDUM TO TOWNSHIP MANAGER’S AGREEMENT

Mr. Wagenmann stated that he is asking the Board of Supervisors to waive the Township Manager residency requirement in the ordinance so that he can proceed with the purchase of a home in Chester County. He and his wife would like to purchase a one-level home and have not been able to find available housing in Upper Merion Township that meets this requirement.

Board Comment:

Mrs. Spott commented that Mr. Wagenmann has given Upper Merion Township many years of good and faithful service and she is absolutely comfortable in doing this [granting the waiver]. She emphasized that in going forward the ordinance should remain in effect to require that the Township Manager live in the township.

Mr. Waks stated this is just a waiver that affects Mr. Wagenmann only and any subsequent Township Manager should be required to live in Upper Merion Township.

Mr. McBride stated that all supervisors are in agreement.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Waks, all voting “Aye” to approve the addendum to the Township Manager’s agreement. None opposed. Motion approved 4-0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

EARTH DAY

Mrs. Spott reminded residents that Earth Day will be held on April 16. She noted that this is a township event sponsored by the Park and Recreation Department and several other entities in the township. As was done last year the Earth Day event will coincide with the Farmers Market. There will be exhibits and information available how to live and act sustainably.

CITIZEN BOARD VACANCIES

Mr. McBride urged residents to volunteer for vacancies on township Boards. These vacancies will be posted on the Government Access Channel. He also said that the Tricentennial Committee could use volunteers with expertise in marketing and planning as well as others who are willing to serve on the committee in different capacities.

From the Public:

Mr. Joe Petrecz, Rebel Hill Road, complimented the public works staff on snow removal this past winter. He also asked what could be done about an intersection at Rebel Hill Road and Lemonton Way that poses a danger when speeding cars are not stopping at the stop sign. Mr. Wagenmann explained that the Safety Section has been at the site and have made recommendations to the Rebel Hill Homeowners Association including the installation of a speed bump. These options have been presented to the association and the management firm will discuss at their next board meeting. Mr. Wagenmann said that the Safety Section will push for these and will also look into possibly moving the stop sign out a little farther.

Mr. Petrecz asked about the possibility of a temporary speed bump. Mr. Wagenmann responded that a push will be made with the homeowners association on this issue.

Mr. Waks stated that he will attend the homeowners association meeting next week to talk about some ideas that have been discussed and to get feedback from Mr. Petrecz and his wife and every member of the association who will be there.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

RONALD G. WAGENMANN
SECRETARY-TREASURER
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: