

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
DECEMBER 1, 2011

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Business Meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2011, 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 Waks, Joseph Bartlett, Edward McBride, Bill Jenaway, and Erika Spott. Also present were: Ron Wagenmann, Township Manager; Carly Fenske, Township Solicitor, Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager, and Angela Caramenico, Assistant to the Township Manager.

MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mrs. Spott, all voting "Aye" to approve the November 3, 2011 Business Meeting Minutes and November 10, 2011 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chairman McBride had no comments.

NEW BUSINESS

POLICE COMMENDATIONS

Police Chief Ron Fonock presented Citizen Commendations, Chief's Commendation, and recognized members of the Lafayette Ambulance Crew for their excellence in handling significant incidents that resulted in saving lives. He stated that the effectiveness of the Police Department can be measured by the level of support and interaction it has in the community it serves. Chief Fonock pointed out in Upper Merion Township our community and its citizens have continuously demonstrated their commitment to aiding the Police Department in their mission of making the community safe and improving the quality of life. Chief Fonock reported on two life saving incidents where citizens without any hesitation stepped forward to do their civic duty.

Chief Fonock stated that Amanda Spencer, age 14, Upper Merion resident, contacted the Upper Merion Police Department on July 15, 2011 to report a suicidal female teen she observed while watching a video chat room on her computer. Officer Drew Miller responded to Amanda's home and, in real time, Officer Miller observed the teen attempting to hang herself twice. The events that followed involved an approximate 1 ½ hours of electronic technology investigation through the states of Pennsylvania, Florida (via a 10 year old female who also was on a computer) and Illinois. Ultimately, the address of the teen was relayed to the 24<sup>th</sup> police district in Chicago and their officers were able to successfully take the woman into protective custody.

Chief Fonock recognized several citizens involved in another life saving event. On October 6, 2011, the Upper Merion Police Department received a report of a man found lying in the middle of the roadway on East Valley Forge Road at the Schuylkill Parkway overpass. The man was riding his bicycle and experienced a debilitating cardiac episode. A passing motorist, Paul Keen, Jr., notified 911 and parked his car in a position to protect the unresponsive man from traffic. Moments later, Ms. Raine Springer, a registered nurse and Ms. Lauren Hurley, an EMT with Lafayette Ambulance, were driving by the scene and assisted. It was determined that the man was in cardiac arrest and they began CPR. Officer Blaine Leis responded and connected an AED to the victim to

administer a shock after which the victim's pulse returned and he began breathing on his own. Lafayette Ambulance arrived and their crew provided advanced medical care and transported the male to Montgomery Hospital where he was admitted for further treatment. The victim who is a resident of Upper Merion Township, Jonathan Weaver, age 61, has recovered from his cardiac stent procedure. The following officer and citizens were recognized:

Chief's Commendation: Officer Blaine Leis

Citizen Commendations: Mr. Paul Keen, Jr.  
Ms. Raine Springer  
EMT Lauren Hurley

Members of Lafayette Ambulance Crew:

Medic Eduardo Angeles  
EMT Greg Amato  
Medic Christopher McLeod  
EMT Nicholas McGuigan

#### PROCLAMATION - 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE BRITH ACHIM

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Waks read and presented a proclamation to Temple Brith Achim on the occasion of their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and recognized their numerous accomplishments in service to the community. He invited all residents to join in their celebration from December 9 to December 11, 2011 with a weekend of ritual and community-based events all of which are designed to emphasize and support Temple Brith Achim's continued mission to teach, build connections and advance spirituality. Rabbi Eric J. Lazar, President Jonathan Edelman, and Cheryl Carmel were present to receive the proclamation. Rabbi Lazar offered some recollections of the Temple's early years in King of Prussia and recent building expansion. He expressed appreciation to township management for their continued support.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Board Policy re: Sewer Revenue Delinquency
2. Budget Transfers re:
  - a. Vehicle Maintenance - \$10,000 (Public Works)
  - b. Vehicle Maintenance - \$4,000 (Park & Shade Tree)
3. Waiver of Fees re: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company - \$1,588.00

#### Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Jenaway, all voting "Aye" to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. None opposed. Motion approved 5-0.

#### EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP AND PECO

Mr. Ron Wagenmann, Township Manager, stated this is a partnership agreement with Upper Merion Township and Montgomery County in negotiating an easement for approximately 20 acres of PECO high tension right-of-way that is located along Hansen Access Road and adjacent to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Valley Forge Homes and Bill Smith Boulevard. He explained it is a joint project since the county is also obtaining a license to construct the extension of the Chester Valley Bicycle Trail that will go through Chester County and into Upper Merion Township by Warner Road. The easement will make it possible to bring the bicycle trail down to Henderson Road, tie into Saulin Boulevard, continue through the Borough of Bridgeport, over the DeKalb Street Bridge and pick up the East River Trail. The agreement also provides an easement for the

Kingwood Road Park that is currently licensed thereby providing a long term arrangement for that park. The county will pay their prorated share of the cost for this right-of-way. Mr. Wagenmann indicated that the easement agreement calls for the adoption of Resolution 2011-34.

Board Action:

It was moved by Mr. Waks, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to approve Resolution 2011-34 as submitted. Mr. McBride abstained. Motion approved 4-0-1.

EMERGENCY PLANNING PRESENTATION

John Waters, Director, Safety/Codes Enforcement and Chief Fire Marshal, provided a presentation that dealt with steps that an individual or family can undertake to prepare themselves in the case of an emergency. The material will be produced as a television show and repeated frequently on Comcast channel 22 and Verizon channel 33. There are plans to post the material on the township website.

Following are highlights of the presentation:

- In tracking previous hazards in Upper Merion, it was determined that the highest threat is fire.
- Major disasters in the last 53 years: heavy snow, drought, flooding (including Hurricane Agnes), high winds. The only large scale non weather-related event was the Sun Pipeline in 1986.
- When Upper Merion emergency services companies and the police department were asked what are the highest threats, they responded transportation incidents since King of Prussia is at the center of several major highways and roads.
- In the last 50 years there have been 11 federally declared disasters, having to do with flooding, high winds, and hurricane/tropical storms; 6 federal disaster declarations for snow events; 5 state-declared disasters for severe winter storms; 4 drought events and 1 hazardous materials incident. There have been 2 locally declared disasters in the last 50 years.
- From a historical perspective, other than fires, the most likely emergency scenarios will be flooding, heavy snow, high wind.
- Following Hurricane Agnes in 1972 in order for a community to be part of the Federal Flood Insurance Program, it was necessary to adopt flood plain ordinances and since then Upper Merion's flood plain ordinances have worked very well.
- Citizens need to be prepared for the isolation that follows severe weather events. For this reason it is necessary to be prepared to remain at home for a number of days.
- The individual citizen or family should create an emergency communications plan and designate a specific meeting place outside the home in case of a fire as well as a meeting place outside the neighborhood and a check-in system in case of evacuation.
- Shelter in place occurs if there is a hazardous materials incident. It is important to close doors and windows, turn off fans and air conditioner, close fireplace damper. In older homes with poor insulation, tape areas where outside air might enter home.
- stay calm in emergencies.
- Prepare a disaster supply kit with a three-day supply for situations when told to shelter in place. The kit should include:
  - one gallon of water per person per day for consumption
  - non perishable food items (canned or ready to eat)
  - manual can opener
  - first aid kit
  - flashlight with plenty of batteries
  - battery operated radio

- prescription medications
- spare eye glasses.
- complete change of clothing
- blankets or sleeping bags
- towelettes
- important family documents such as wills, deeds, insurance policy
- extra sets of keys for car and house.
- tune to KYW 1060, the public emergency broadcast system station, UMGA-TV on Comcast 22 or Verizon 33, [www.untownship.org](http://www.untownship.org).

Mr. Waters discussed the Township's Connect-CTY system. He explained the Police Department has used it for Amber Alerts; it was used last winter to give instructions for citizens for an anticipated snow storm and most recently during Hurricane Irene. With one phone call, the system is able to dial every listed phone number (resident and business) in the township to deliver urgent messages. It is also possible to designate a specific geographic area or certain group to receive the messages.

Other proactive actions to take before an emergency strikes:

- take a Red Cross CPR class
- volunteer at your local fire station since a variety of skills are needed during an emergency.
- create a Town Watch program.
- get to know your neighbors

Mr. Water provided an update on the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) which replaced the color-coded system. This new system will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector. The best way to be prepared for such a threat is to stay informed and remain vigilant.

Resources to help prepare for specific emergencies include:

- [www.untownship.org](http://www.untownship.org)
- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Mr. Waters stated that an emergency preparedness program is being developed for UMGA-TV for regular rebroadcasting and the township's website will be updated with helpful tips and information as weather or other emergencies occur.

Mrs. Spott expressed appreciation for Mr. Waters' presentation and commented on Fire Inspector Bill Henderson's timely visit to her place of employment. As a member of her company's safety committee as well as floor captain, the information Mr. Henderson provided was timely and useful during an actual fire incident at her place of employment one month later while Mrs. Spott and other employees were still in the building. Knowing firsthand how important it is to know what to do in such emergency situations, she asked Mr. Waters to produce a similar program so that it can be broadcast for the community.

Mrs. Spott asked for additional details about energy emergencies. Mr. Waters responded that there is a robust mutual aid system in place for extensive power outages. PECO has a system where they bring in crews from the whole Northeast corridor, the west and south, if necessary.

For the benefit of residents, Mrs. Spott asked for some suggestions on where they can obtain a battery operated radio, and Mr. Waters provided a few local purchasing options.

Mrs. Spott asked where the evacuation centers are located in Upper Merion Township. Mr. Waters responded that depends on what and how large the emergency in Upper Merion. The schools are used as short term and long term evacuation centers. If an evacuation announcement is made using the Connect-CTY that information can be provided in the message. Another option is to have two police cars working in tandem, one with a red light and sirens and the second one on the PA system advising evacuation and where the evacuation center is located.

Mrs. Spott asked if it is necessary to sign up for Connect-CTY, and Mr. Waters responded that registration is not necessary since the call will be made to every listed phone number. For those with unlisted numbers, Mr. Waters referred them to the Montgomery County website to register for emergency notifications ([www.montcopa.org](http://www.montcopa.org), scroll down and then click on yellow box "Ready Notify PA").

Mrs. Spott asked that the televised presentation, township website and written information include instructions for those who have unlisted phone numbers.

Mr. Jenaway asked how residents might obtain a copy of the emergency preparedness brochure that was provided for the supervisors. Mr. Waters responded that residents may call his office at the township building. He noted that this information was also printed in the township newsletter.

Mr. Jenaway stated that over the past few years there have been two fatalities in Upper Merion Township related to portable generator use indoors. While portable generators are useful when temporary electric power is needed, he cautioned residents that it is an extreme safety hazard to use portable generators indoors or in enclosed spaces.

Mr. Jenaway commented that the public safety agencies of Upper Merion had an opportunity to meet earlier this week with the corporate management of one of the large corporations in the township. The executives had positive comments about the public safety of Upper Merion Township and how they and their employees value the safe, snow-plowed roads that Upper Merion provides. Mr. Jenaway pointed out municipal government has an obligation to make sure that citizens have a strong public safety system which includes safe roads, a sewer system that works and a public safety system of fire, EMS and police that solve crimes, save lives, put out fires and protect the people. He emphasized that in Upper Merion Township systems are in place and as a result businesses want to locate, relocate, or expand here and people want to live, work, worship and leisure here.

## ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

### POLICE HIRINGS

Mr. Wagenmann announced that the Police Department will be hiring four officers. He wanted to report to the Board of Supervisors and the public that offers will be made to four individuals and then they can proceed with the remainder of the hiring process which includes the physical and psychological testing. These four officers are replacing individuals who have either left service or will be leaving within the next six months. There is also the need for additional officers because of some injury situations within the department.

### From the Public:

Gene Lonchar, Swedeland, noted that cars parking on leaves left on the street can be the cause of fires when the catalytic converter ignites. *Mr. Waks asked that this cautionary note be added to the emergency planning presentation.*

### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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RONALD G. WAGENMANN  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:  
Minutes Entered: