

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JOINT MEETING
MAY 19, 2011

The Board of Supervisors of Upper Merion Township met for a Joint Meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2011, in the Board Room, in the Township Building in King of Prussia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a pledge to the flag.

PENSION ADVISORY BOARD

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, Joseph Bartlett, Ed McBride. Also present were: Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager; Fred Santoro, Human Resources Director; Eric Medrow, Chairperson; Vincent Mallon and Sgt. Andrew Andreyko. Supervisor Spott was absent.

DISCUSSIONS:

Mr. Eric Medrow, Chairperson, stated all non-uniformed civilian Upper Merion Township employees participate in the 401(a) Defined Contribution Pension Plan administered by ICMA-RC, Washington, D.C. Employees are required to deposit 3% of their gross earnings into the account and the township then contributes 6% to each account. Participants may then select from a wide variety of investment fund options, and each employee self directs his or her own investment portfolio. The total account balance as of December 31, 2010 was \$11,606,963.

Mr. McBride asked for an explanation of the difference between the 401(a) and a 401(k) plan. Mr. Medrow responded that a 401(k) plan is designed for profit-making organizations whereas a 401(a) plan is for non-profit organizations such as municipalities or non-profit associations.

Mr. Medrow discussed the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for 2011 and noted the 457 plan is an additional type of compensation plan designed specifically for municipal employees. Upper Merion Township's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan is a voluntary supplemental pension plan available to all full time employees; however, participation by uniformed police officers is mandatory; accounts are provided by ICMA-RC. Total assets as of December 31, 2011 were \$11,197,600.

Mr. Medrow explained the Upper Merion Township Retirement Health Savings Account is an excellent savings account for health care purposes. Certain employees may voluntarily participate in a retirement health savings

account managed by ICMA-RC. Investments in this account are self directed by the participants in a variety of fund options as with the 401(a). The year end balance for this particular account is \$687,976.

Mr. McBride asked how many employees are involved in the health savings account, and Mr. Santoro responded 19 individuals.

Mr. Bartlett asked if the health savings accounts are for people who retire early before eligibility for Medicare. Mr. Santoro responded this is a program designed by the IRS which allows municipal employees to accrue assets to pay for health care once they have separated service and retire. Mr. Medrow stated this is a very unique plan much like the old flexible savings account except the flexible savings account is "use it" or "lose it" at the end of the year whereas with the health savings you can continue to accrue assets year after year and eventually use it in older years to pay for such things as health care and nursing home expenses.

Mr. Waks asked if the contributions for the health savings account are tax deductible. Mr. Santoro responded they are tax deferred.

Mr. Medrow stated the largest of all the accounts is the Upper Merion Township Act 600 Defined Benefit Police Pension Plan; this is a defined benefit plan as opposed to a defined contribution plan. The police pension plan investments are managed by the firm of D. F. Dent and Company, Baltimore, Maryland; custodian of the funds is PNC Bank, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The account balance on December 31, 2009 was \$32,392,242 and during the year the account earned \$1,072,413 while paying out to retired employees a total of \$1,349,408 in benefits and expenses. The account balance on December 31, 2010 after fees and distributions was \$35,637,153. The most recent balance as of March 31, 2011 is \$36,710,127.

Mr. Medrow noted that during this calendar year, the Pension Board is looking carefully at each one of the financial vendors to make sure the economic benefit cost analysis being done is the best job that can be done for our police employees.

Mr. Medrow stated Upper Merion Township offers all of its full time employees and eligible dependents a comprehensive health care benefit package including medical, surgical, vision, dental and prescription coverage. Additionally retired police and civilian employees may choose to continue participation in the plan at their own expense following their separation from service. The township converted its self insured model, previously administered by AmeriHealth, to a fully insured model with the Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust on July 1, 2010. As a result of this change significant savings are now realized.

TRANSPORTATION/GENERAL AUTHORITY

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, Joseph Bartlett, and Edward McBride. Also present were: Nick Hiriak, Director of Finance; Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager; Mike Santillo, Chairman, Upper Merion Transportation Authority, Tad Hershey, Treasurer; Marvin Meneeley, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Supervisor Erika Spott, Ron Wagenmann, Township Manager, and Louis A. Zotti were absent.

DISCUSSIONS:

Mr. Nick Hiriak, Director of Finance, provided an update on the projects the Transportation Authority is working on. He outlined the four main projects the Authority is involved with as follows:

1. 422 River Crossing Complex (4 projects)
 - a. Project 1: US 422/PA 363 Interchange Improvements Project – this project addresses the new ramps to and from US 422 West with the right size ramp design. A second ramp to Adams Avenue was eliminated due to the cost. The reconstructed US 422 Eastbound on ramp is two lanes and has a tight radius to allow for the new eastbound off ramp. With that type radius it has allowed for use of less right-of-way. There are various roadway improvements for Trooper Road. Trooper Road will be widened from the ramps through the Audubon Road intersection for an additional lane heading towards the ramps. Audubon Road will be widened to allow for a double right turn onto Trooper Road. The plan is currently in final design by PennDOT consultants, Urban Engineers and Gannett Fleming. Township engineers, Boles Smyth, are not involved. Construction let date is scheduled for March-April 2012. One construction season is anticipated March through October; funding is available and PennDOT has programmed the funding to come through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The project cost is estimated at \$15 million.
 - b. Project 2: US 422 Schuylkill River Bridges, Widening & PA 23 Interchange – a PennDOT project being designed by Urban Engineers and Gannett Fleming. The project replaces the structure over PA 23 and US 422 and involves the bridge depth, bridge beams, abutments, piers. It also will encompass an improved First Avenue on ramp onto US 422. Plans have been

submitted for the five structures, the various bridges over the different roadways and two retaining walls that will be used in this project. Right-of-way still needs to be acquired and most of it is from the area of the O'Neill Riverview development. The estimated let date on this project is January 2015. There is \$2 million for design; however, approximately \$125 million in construction funds for construction are still needed.

- c. Project 3: Old Betzwood Multi-Use Trail Project (Local Stakeholders with PennDOT funding), designed by Boles Smyth. It addresses the replacement and rehab of the existing Trooper Road Bridge and addition of the multi-use trail over the river. When this trail project is completed the old Trooper Road/PennDOT legal right-of-way will be abandoned by PennDOT and will be accepted by the Upper Merion Transportation Authority and West Norriton Township. Since this cannot be given directly to the National Park Service, it will be turned over to Upper Merion Township and West Norriton. Both townships will then turn over the right-of-way and bridge areas to the Valley Forge National Historical Park. Once the appropriate municipal resolutions are adopted, the right-of-way transfer process to the National Park Service can proceed. Construction is scheduled for December 2013; close to \$7 million is available for construction funding through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission TIP Program. Funding is 100 percent federal and state, however, the cost estimate came in \$2 million higher than what is available from the \$7 million so there will be some meetings set aside in the future with PennDOT to discuss how they are going to address this.
- d. Project 4: Relocation of North Gulph Road Project (Local Stakeholders with PennDOT funding) – This is an Authority project designed by Boles Smyth that will address the various lane expansions and some mitigation buffering. One of the main elements of the project is to provide enough capacity through an approaching PA 23 Valley Forge Road, North Gulph Road and park entrance. Mitigation buffering is to move the roadway towards US 422 to give the park a better gateway entrance. Boles Smyth has recently submitted an engineering proposal to PennDOT. Notice from PennDOT to proceed is expected in July. The estimated let date for this project is 2016; the \$10.8 million funding is available and comes through DVRPC.

Mr. McBride asked for clarification about the cost for project 2. Mr. Hiriak responded the cost of project 2 is \$125 million and not funded.

Mr. McBride asked if there is any communication or inference from PennDOT indicating when the funding might be available. Mr. Hershey responded it is difficult to predict what is going to happen for funding with a project of this magnitude. He explained that in times like this the Authority gets the designs shovel ready and when the money looks like it might become available, the preparation work is done so that the township can seize the opportunity as was done most recently with the ramps project. This same principle of being proactive and ready has been applied successfully over the years.

Mr. McBride indicated he would ask Mr. Wagenmann to inquire about the current flow of federal funds into PennDOT and if the funding valve is slowing and how much the federal funding of PennDOT is going to eventually have on the projects.

Mr. McBride asked for clarification on project 3 with regard to the transfer of ownership. Mr. Santillo responded the park cannot take direct possession of the property. It will have to be transferred to the Authority and then turned over to the park. Upper Merion Township and West Norriton Township will each receive part of the deed. Mr. Hershey indicated the two townships and the National Park Service were well coordinated on this whole project to assure all parties were in agreement. Because of a legal formality the state cannot give the Betzwood Bridge directly to the park. He also noted Upper Merion Township will not be responsible for maintenance.

2. The I-76 West ramps Henderson Road widening South Gulph Road widening project (4 phases)
 - a. Phase 1: I-76 West Ramps at Henderson Road – In March 2009 since this phase was deemed “shovel ready” it was selected for the Economic Stimulus Program that provided 100% federal funding for the construction startup which began in Spring 2010. Without this funding the project was not scheduled to begin until 2012. Glasgow, Inc. was the low bidder for this project at \$10.6 million. Progress has been ongoing; with the recent opening of the new westbound on ramp the former ramp at South Gulph Road West/Crooked Lane is now closed and traffic signals are being monitored for timing. Construction completion is anticipated in Fall of 2011 with the opening of the west off ramp tying into the same intersection.
 - b. Phase 2: South Henderson Road Widening-North Half. This project includes widening South Henderson Road to five lanes

from South of Church Road to Monroe Boulevard, providing two lanes in each direction with a common center lane and left turn lanes at the intersections. Quite a bit of time has been spent on this Authority project in negotiating rights-of-way. In conjunction with this project sewer lines will be installed from Kunda Beverage to Henderson Square. The bid opening for this project is July 2011. The Transportation Authority is funding this entire project; about 2 years ago borrowed \$3 million from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank at a 2 ½% rate. Because of the current interest rate environment, the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank is allowing the Authority to reapply for a new rate of 1.65%. None of the \$3 million has been drawn down and a savings will be realized at this new rate.

- c. Phase 3: South Henderson Road Widening-South Half – This project is widening four lanes from the point the north half ends down to the intersection where the ramps are located. A funding application has been submitted for the Montgomery County Jump Start Program. If this project is not selected under this program the costs will fall into Phase 4 of this overall scheme. This cost is estimated at \$4.6 million.
 - d. Phase 4: South Gulph Road Widening is in the planning stages. This will widen South Gulph Road from PA Route 320 to the ramp project where Phase 1 ends. There have been several meetings with state legislators and PennDOT has committed to right sizing their proposed design when Phase 1 is completed. A meeting will be held early next year to review the findings.
- 3. The Church Road Bridge over the SEPTA Route 100 line – It was noted that an important aspect of this project is the mapping of the detour. It will be signed to primarily use Henderson Road to Shoemaker Road to Yerkes Road to Crooked Lane vice versa and signalization will be adjusted in that detour to meet the traffic.
 - 4. The Upper South Gulph Road widening project – It will run from Church Road to Long Road. Right-of-way has been acquired along Valley Forge Gardens Cemetery. Meetings with property owners have been held and design issues have been discussed. The speed limit has been reduced to 35 miles per hour, a new traffic signal will be installed at Long Road, and as part of the design the roadway will be raised to help with sight distance problems. The Authority will continue to meet and determine what the issues are in moving forward. This is a \$2.6 million township project that will be obtained through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank; reapplication for the loan was made as was done for the Henderson Road project.

Mr. McBride commented he has asked Mr. Wagenmann to look into the timing of the light since he has received feedback that Henderson Road now backs up significantly in the morning to Shoemaker Road. Mr. Wagenmann is going to work with PennDOT to see what can be done to bring the traffic through there more efficiently.

UPPER MERION MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, Joseph Bartlett, Ed McBride. Also present were: Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager; Ed O'Brien, Director, Public Works; Stanley Channick, Chairperson; Edward Veneziale, Vice Chairperson; Jim Ruddy, Secretary; Assistant Sec/Assistant Treasurer, Pete Smyrk. Supervisor Erika Spott and Lynne Z. Gold-Bikin, Treasurer were absent.

DISCUSSIONS:

Mr. Stanley Channick, Chairperson, reported that the state of the Authority is excellent due in large measure to a competent and dedicated staff.

Mr. Ed O'Brien, Director of Public Works, provided an overview of the 2010 project updates for the Upper Merion Municipal Utility Authority (UMMUA) as well as the Sewer Revenue Account (SRA). Mr. O'Brien began with a report on the Swedeland Pump Station Upgrade Project No. 2 that the Authority is funding at \$1.7 million to upsize and upgrade the pumping station to account for a build out of that entire area that feeds into the Swedeland Pump Station. In 2010 the Department of Environmental Protection issued an R2 permit, final design plans were completed last May and through the Authority the township applied for an H2O grant for this project and held off in putting it out to bid until the outcome of the grant application was determined. Mr. O'Brien reported that the last awarding of the H2O program occurred this Spring and as a result this funding source will not be available for this project. He noted that there is a limited time scope for this particular project because it is very necessary. It is hoped to be able to go out and construct next year depending on the funding the Authority has available.

The next project Mr. O'Brien discussed is the Charles Street Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement, Phase II, an SRA funded project for collection systems on Charles Street. The current 8-inch pipe is being upsized to a 16-inch pipe. In March 2010 meetings were held with the residents, bids were received in July, contract was awarded in August to BP Paterson with a bid of \$160,000, and the

project was substantially completed in October 2010. The contractor has to come back and do some punch list items to finish the contract.

Mr. O'Brien provided an overview of the Tredyffrin Interceptor, a Utility Authority project, known as the Village at Valley Forge. The Authority agreed to install a 14-inch interceptor line to the Trout Run Plant. BP Paterson is the contractor with a construction cost of \$495,150. In 2010 a special study requested by DEP was completed as part of the 537 planning. Force main was designed for the most cost effective routing for this project. The Township and the Authority obtained a \$337,000 H2O grant for this project. All permits and easements were obtained in 2010, bids were received and the contract was awarded to BP Paterson in December. The force main pipe work is complete and the restoration of the work area is underway.

The next project Mr. O'Brien discussed is the Gulph Creek Emergency Streambank Stabilization Project (SRA). The sewer line and manhole in Gulph Creek was being undermined. This was an emergency project to stabilize the bank and protect the infrastructure; an immediate design was obtained from the Authority's engineer. TST Construction was the contractor with a construction cost of \$230,000. In 2010 the design was completed, all permits, easements, etc. were obtained, all the punch list items are done and the entire project is complete.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the Frog Run/Crow Creek Emergency Streambank Stabilization project (SRA). Because of the severe weather this past fall, winter and spring, the infrastructure at Frog Run and Crow Creek streambanks was undermined and emergency streambank stabilization was necessary. TST Construction was the low bid contractor at a cost of \$104,000. In 2010 the design was completed and all permits and easements for both of these projects have been completed. With the redirection of some flow and pipe repair the infrastructure has been stabilized.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the upgrading of the Emergency Electrical Generator Service, Phase II. Initially this was going to be a dual feed project similar to Trout Run; however, the cost became prohibitive and it was decided to go in another direction. The source of funding for this project is the Utility Authority and it is being done at the Matsunk Plant. Two generators older than 25 years are being replaced with one big generator that can handle the whole plant. The general contractor is Nice Construction at a cost of \$104,353. The electrical contractor is Philips Brothers Electrical at a cost of \$480,000. In 2010 contracts were bid in June, awarded in July, and construction permits issued in November. The generator is now installed and staff training associated with the systems has been completed. Restoration and punch list items are being addressed as well as the development of maintenance manuals.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the Trickling Filter Tower and Tank study and design, an SRA project at Matsunk. Phase I was a needs analysis and Phase II consisted of some of the design work by Arro Consulting for \$52,250 which was completed in 2010. Application was made for an H2O grant in February 2009; however, because of the economy the request was on hold throughout 2010. Mr. O'Brien reported that as of last week he was notified that an H2O grant in the amount of \$332,065 was awarded to the township for this project and the details are now being worked out.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the Rehabilitation and Evaluation Final Settling Tanks No. 1 and 2, Sludge Thickener Tank No. 1, and Primary Settling Tanks No. 1 and 2, an SRA project at Matsunk. The recommended repair work was performed. A study was done to optimize the hydraulics to remove solids in the existing treatment units. Arro Consulting engineered the work. The total budget for the study and needs assessment was \$245,000. There was no activity in 2010 which was basically a funding issue. Mr. O'Brien noted that since there is limited funding for this project it was set aside. A sinkhole remediation is presently being finished and it was not known what the overall cost of this would be. For this reason a commitment was not made for the other project until it could be determined that sufficient funds were available. Once the bills for the sinkhole remediation are in it can be decided what portion of this project, if any, can be done this year or moved back to 2012. It was emphasized that the units are running, but some repair work is needed to optimize them.

The next project Mr. O'Brien discussed is the Emergency Sinkhole Geotechnical Evaluation Study and Remediation Project, an SRA project at Matsunk, that ties into the sinkhole project mentioned above. The total project budget is approximately \$555,000. The contractor is Earthcore Services with a bid of approximately \$495,000. In 2010 the evaluation study was completed; the void sites were determined and have now been filled and stabilized. There will be a follow up evaluation to determine the effectiveness of the void filling program.

Mr. O'Brien discussed the Screenings Building Upgrade, a Utility Authority project at Matsunk. The current building is over 20 years old and is in disrepair. The total project budget is \$325,000; design was completed in 2010. Funds were not available for construction this year and it is hoped that monies may be available next year.

The next project discussed was the Upgrade of the Matsonford Pumping Station funded by the Utility Authority. It involves evaluating the existing condition, investigating and outlining opportunities to optimize operations through a build out situation similar to Swedeland. It was noted that build outs have been the practice for the last ten years since it eliminates the need to go back and redo the projects. There is a total budget of \$225,000, and recommended design was completed in 2010. It is currently at the 95% stage depending on final go ahead.

This is also a funding issue with the Authority, but the needs of the Matsonford Pumping Station and the screenings building at Matsunk are toward the bottom of the priority list and not comparable to the needs at the Swedeland Pumping Station.

The next project discussed was the Sludging Water Equipment Replacement Evaluation, an SRA project, located at Trout Run and Matsunk. This equipment has been in service over 25-30 years. The sludge processing equipment was evaluated and is in the capital budget to be replaced next year. Evaluations were completed of different technologies for biosolids dewatering with a view toward improving the sludge quality from a class B to a class A which will provide wider possibilities for sludge disposal options.

Mr. O'Brien also reported that in 2011 staff visited a few of the facilities that were recommended for equipment replacement and the 2012 capital budget request will be more specific for these particular items.

Mr. O'Brien provided an update of the Municipal Industrial Pretreatment (MIPP) Program. He pointed out this is a very important program with a great deal of input from the permitted industrial users and a mutual exchange of communication. Mr. O'Brien reported the 2010 MIPP compliance award winners are: AFA Foods (formerly American Foods Service), H.J. Heinz, John Middleton, Inc., Arkema, Inc., Montgomery County Landfill; Hope's Country Fresh Cookies. He explained these are all compliance award winners that were 100% in compliance with their permits issued by the township for 12 months.

Mr. O'Brien noted Upper Merion Township also recognizes what companies are doing in other areas of the environment and pollution prevention. The Pollution Prevention Award is an innovative award supported by the Authority which recognizes permitted users that have taken positive pollution prevention action in such areas as waste minimization or recycling. The Upper Merion 2010 operation of the MIPP Program was rated a 96.3% which is considered a Category 1, a top rating received from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This same top rating was received from EPA in 2009.

During his update of the MIPP Program, Mr. O'Brien reported in Upper Merion there are 12 permitted industrial users in 2010. All were sampled and inspected in 2010 and out of these 7 notices of violation were issued. Penalties were collected from one industrial user to date amounting to \$4,750. Higher fines have been issued and this total reflects monies the township has actually received.

Mr. O'Brien reported on other Wastewater System items of note in 2010 that including:

- cleaned approximately 190,000 linear feet of sewer mains compared to approximately 212,000 feet in 2009
- television inspection of approximately 30,000 linear feet of sewer mains compared to 8,000 feet in 2009
- inspected approximately 3,300 manholes compared to 3,160 in 2009
- marked 2,721 PA One Calls compared to 2,350 in 2009
- replaced 400 linear feet of 6-inch sewer laterals compared to 96 feet in 2009
- replaced 644 linear feet of 8-inch sewer mains compared to 40 feet in 2009
- did not replace any 10-inch sewer mains compared to 10 feet in 2009.

Mr. O'Brien provided an update on flows remaining at each facility at this point:

- Matsunk there are approximately 750,000 gallons of flow remaining
- Trout Run there are approximately 300,000 gallons remaining—for a total of a little less than 1.1 million gallons of flow remaining that are not already allocated.

Mr. Jenaway asked for clarification about the total allocations remaining and if this took into consideration the allocations for the casino and golf course properties. Mr. O'Brien responded in the affirmative.

Mr. McBride asked if there is a process in the township for testing its generators on a regular basis. Mr. O'Brien responded in the affirmative and indicated that the generators at the pumping stations as well as the treatment plants are exercised on a regular basis following the manufacturer's recommendations and they are routinely serviced.

Mr. McBride followed up by asking if there are any EPA restrictions to exercising the generators. Mr. O'Brien responded staff looked into this for the project at Matsunk because of the size of the generator. According to the EPA there is a certain limit at which point a Title V would be permitted if total gases released would be "X" amount of tonnage; however Upper Merion does not reach that threshold.

Mr. McBride asked for an explanation of the difference between centrifuge and press. Mr. O'Brien responded bell press squeezes water out of solid material. Centrifuge is a high rate spinning mechanism that separates water from the solids. He commented the rotary press is the way to go from a cost effective and ease of operations and maintenance standpoint, based on the technologies available to suit the township's needs.

Mr. Bartlett asked for clarification of Mr. O'Brien's comments about dealing with some sanitary sewer issues when funding is available. Mr. O'Brien explained how staff deliberates during the budget preparation process to set priorities. Mr. Channick stated that from the Authority's standpoint anything that is urgent is done.

Mr. Waks commented on a regular basis the Municipal Authority members go out to the Matsunk and Trout Run plants to see the operations firsthand and he remarked how valuable this is.

ZONING HEARING BOARD:

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Bill Jenaway, Joseph Bartlett, Ed McBride. Also present were: Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager; Mark Zadroga, Zoning Officer; Robert Montemayor, Chairman; Brad Murphy. Supervisor Erika Spott, Mark DePillis and Gina LaMarra were absent.

DISCUSSIONS:

Mr. Mark Zadroga, Zoning Officer, reported in 2010, the Township received 31 zoning applications which is average for the last two or three years. Of the 31 applications 3 were withdrawn at the request of the applicants. As a result 28 applications were heard by the Zoning Hearing Board during meetings held twice a month for a total of 21 meetings. The Zoning Hearing Board voted to approve 23 of the applications and voted to deny 4 applications. No decisions were appealed to the Court of Common Pleas. The township website has posted all the Zoning Hearing Board applications and decisions since 2009 on their website.

Mr. McBride commented no litigation was generated last year and how well that reflects on the Zoning Hearing Board decisions. He also pointed out the Zoning Hearing Board from time to time will decide immediately on an application the same evening it comes before them. This system works very well and is respectful of the applicant's time and money. In the past the Zoning Hearing Board would always use the 45 days they are allowed to deliberate and at some point in those 45 days they would respond to the applicant.

Mr. Robert Montemayor, Chairman, commented the Zoning Hearing Board has been diligent in trying to accommodate the applicants as much as possible since it is important to be conscious of people's time. Often times there are construction considerations, financing with homeowners and businesses depending on the scope of the projects and the Zoning Hearing Board tries whenever possible to render decisions.

Mr. Bartlett asked about the business activity across the street from the Valley Forge Shopping Center. Mr. Montemayor was limited on what he could comment on since the applicant is still refining the application. He indicated this application would be before the Zoning Hearing Board on June 1. Mr. Zadroga indicated that the area Mr. Bartlett referred to is zoned C-1.

POLICE CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors present were: Greg Waks, Joseph Bartlett, Ed McBride. Also present were: Judith A. Vicchio, Assistant Township Manager; Sgt. Charles Zadroga; Jennifer M. Schauble, Chairperson; LaVera Seymour, Secretary; Allan Pomerantz; Jeffrey McCabe; Thomas P. Halfpenny. Supervisor Spott, Supervisor Jenaway, Frank Rodrique, Matt Frangiosa, and H. David Rassbach were absent.

DISCUSSIONS:

Ms. Jennifer M. Schauble, Chairperson, stated the primary goal of the Police Advisory Board remains to be a forum and opportunity for the exchange of information between the citizens of the township and the Upper Merion Police Department. She highlighted a variety of ways the Police Department interacts with the citizens of the township:

- fingerprinting of children of the township and people who visit Upper Merion Township. Sgt. Chuck Zadroga fingerprinted approximately 50 children at the Upper Merion Farmers Market last June 2010 and about 70 children in September of 2010 at Community Day.
- National Prescription Drug Take Back Day sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) was held in September 2010 and April 2011.
- Police officers offered a variety of presentations at the Citizen Board Meetings on such subjects as:
 - Police Department's accreditation process
 - identity theft issues, scams
 - the Central Montgomery County S.W.A.T. team
 - D.A.R.E. classes for middle school children
 - Traffic Safety Unit
- Citizens Police Academy

Ms. Schauble stated this year's "Police Week" was cancelled for the second year in a row due to budget constraints.

Ms. Schauble discussed the Community Alliance for a Safer Tomorrow which is a school based organization which focuses on reducing risk factors for substance abuse and violence. It provides funds for uniformed officers for 300 hours of overtime and is designed to target under aged drinking. Officers patrol in select areas during times of peak under age drinking activities such as proms and graduation parties. Offenders are arrested and either sent through the court system or to the youth aid panel.

Mr. Bartlett questioned the cancellation of "Police Week" due to budget restraints. Sgt. Zadroga responded that it was decided to hold the Citizens Police Academy instead.

Mr. Bartlett asked about the type of activities associated with "Police Week." Sgt. Zadroga reported a Police Department and Lafayette Ambulance display would be set up in the King of Prussia Plaza generally held on a Thursday and Friday night and all day Saturday. Police officers and emergency medical representatives would interact with the public with a special focus on children on Saturday.

Mr. Bartlett expressed concern such a valuable event was cancelled due to budget constraints. Mr. Jeffrey McCabe commented it is also an overtime issue and officers cannot be taken off the street.

Mr. McBride stated there will be an opportunity to discuss this during the upcoming budget process beginning in a few months.

Mr. McCabe suggested approaching a corporate sponsor about the cost of the "Police Week" weekend.

Mr. Waks asked if the Police Department intends to hold a shredding event in the township. Sgt. Zadroga responded there are shredding events held in the area on a regular basis, but this is something they could definitely look into.

Mr. Waks suggested possibly getting sponsorship from one of the big stores in the township.

Mr. McBride commented one of the places to look for sponsorship of a shredding event are the banks along Route 202 and/or one of the township's partners in the business community.

Mr. McBride commented on the prescription drug take back day and what a success it is in saving lives.

Mr. McBride asked how many children are reached through the D.A.R.E. program. Sgt. Zadroga responded approximately 30 children at Mother of Divine Providence every year and at Upper Merion Middle School approximately 200-300 children.

Mr. Waks commented the senior service center would be a good place to provide a forum for advising people on scams and frauds.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Joint Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

RONALD G. WAGENMANN
SECRETARY-TREASURER
TOWNSHIP MANAGER

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Minutes Approved:
Minutes Entered: